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'Arafat Visits Sweden

A 6 December meeting between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a group of U.S. Jews was "fruitful and constructive," the Swedish Foreign Ministry announced in a communique reported by Stockholm radio. The talks, which were chaired by the Swedish foreign minister, were held in a "friendly atmosphere" and "important topics" were covered.

The Swedish minister began another meeting with 'Arafat the following morning, the radio said, adding that it was unclear whether the U.S. delegation was also taking part.

A PLO source cited by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio stated that 'Arafat's visit to Sweden is part of a Palestinian attempt to explain the PNC resolutions in Europe, noting that the PLO leader will visit Austria before delivering his speech at the United Nations in Geneva.

Israel

At least five Arabs were wounded during clashes with the IDF in the territories, Jerusalem radio reported, and one of the victims is in critical condition after being shot in the head.

In the Haifa area, security forces and police apprehended a 13-strong Fatah "terrorist" squad suspected of carrying out the 20 August grenade attack in the city, the radio disclosed. Most members of the squad are Bedouins and two are IDF soldiers.

Lebanon

An RPG was fired at the Central Bank building in the Al-Hamra' area the night of 6 December, causing a "big explosion," Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The radio said no further details were known because Syrian forces had cordoned off the area. The attack follows a public dispute between the rival authorities in East and West Beirut over access to the Bank's funds.

Iran

Relations With USSR—During talks in Moscow with visiting Iranian Economy and Finance Minister Javad Iravani, Soviet Premier Nikilay Ryzhkov stressed the USSR's desire to expand ties with Iran and stated that a "new chapter" has been opened in Soviet-Iranian relations, IRNA reported.

According to TASS, the two sides held a thorough exchange of views on a wide range of topics, with Ryzhkov expressing the view that it is time for the USSR and Iran to make more vigorous progress in bilateral relations.

Libya

Foreign Relations—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received the Chadian information minister, who conveyed a message from President Hissein Habre expressing happiness at the "positive development" of relations between the two countries, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

In other developments, the Tunisian prime minister received a Libyan delegation headed by 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of Libya's General People's Committee, Tunis radio reported.

Libyan envoy Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi continued his Arab tour with a visit to Kuwait, according to JANA. Al-Kharrubi met with the amir and conveyed a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi, Kuwait radio noted.

Meanwhile, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Kuwaiti Armed Forces commander in chief concluded his visit to Khartoum after reaching a number of agreements with the Sudanese authorities, SUNA reported, noting that the Libyans have agreed to establish a university in Sudan and to build a highway linking the two countries.

Pakistan

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided not to field a presidential candidate but to support the current president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his bid for reelection, Islamabad radio reported.

Although PPP Secretary General Tikka Khan was among the eight candidates to submit nomination papers, a PPP official cited by the radio indicated that his candidacy will be withdrawn before the election.

The PPP wants to keep the post of president above political differences to maintain national integration and consensus, the radio noted. The leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance announced that his party also backs Ishaq Khan's candidacy, the report added.

Regarding the new government's plans to provide relief to political and other prisoners, the interior minister announced that 17,000 prisoners will benefit, including over 2,000 people whose death sentences are being commuted to life imprisonment, according to the radio. The release of various categories of prisoners will begin shortly.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO 'Accepts Israel's Right to Exist'

LD0712143688 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1400 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The PLO and the group of American Jews who have been having talks in Stockholm today presented a joint declaration. The declaration says the PLO accepts Israel's right to exist as a state in the Middle East. In addition, the PLO dissociates itself from terrorism in all its forms including state terrorism.

During the talks the PLO declared that it wants to start peace negotiations under the UN [words indistinct].

The American Jews who have been taking part in the Stockholm meeting have expressed support for the Palestinian independence declaration.

Foreign Minister Sten Andersson says in a comment that it is quite clear that this declaration will be of great importance. Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson describes the declaration as a clear breakthrough for the conflict in the Middle East.

'Abbas Interviewed on Visa, PNC Resolution

JN0612183088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Dec 88 p 11

[Interview with Palestinian Liberation Front Secretary General Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-'Abbas, by Najih Khalil; date, place not given]

[Text] [Khalil] Our first question deals with the special topic of the last PNC resolutions in Algiers and the conditional recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338.

You in the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] had reservations about this decision, although it retained the right to self-determination.

Were your reservations because you believe such recognition a leap into thin air with no international guarantees offered to the Palestinian side?

['Abbas] The PLF agreed, during the latest PNC session, to the political statement as a whole. This was because this statement, with the comprehensive working plan on the popular and political levels it included, harmonizes with the policies of our front, strengthens the state of national resurgence brought about by the revolution of stones inside the occupied homeland, and provides the PLO with immunity from the dangers it might face during current and future political activity.

The political statement does not discuss Resolutions 242 and 338 only. The paragraph in which the two resolutions are mentioned also includes a guarantee of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is self-determination. This also includes implementing the principles and provisions of the UN Charter on peoples' right to self-determination and the inadmissibility of seizing land by force or military invasion in accordance with United Nations resolutions dealing specifically with the Palestine question.

This is a quotation from the text. In addition to this, the use of the two mentioned resolutions, which are recognized by the front-line Arab states, as a basis for the effective international conference on the Palestine question, will be linked to the issue of guaranteeing the Palestinian people's national rights.

Therefore, the PLO, of which we are a part, through its formulation has met the two demands; one of the struggling Palestinian people, which it represents and leads single-handed, and the other of the fraternal, friendly, and other countries that put pressure on the PLO leadership to force it to accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for the international conference in return for the possibility of PLO participation as a basic party. This is what the statement affirmed. We see these two resolutions as inapplicable to us. Therefore, we do not support them inasmuch as they ignore the Palestinian people's cause.

We can see that the statement views them as merely two international resolutions specific to convening the international conference. To us, this does not mean recognition of Israel's right to exist. It means nothing more than Palestinian readiness to fight the political battle, backed by the friends of the Palestinian people and Arab nation, while affirming that the conflict with the Zionist enemy cannot be decided except for the benefit of our people and just national cause and the guarantees for the historic rights of our people.

As for the possibility of this participation and the date of the international conference, they are not easy to specify. We are convinced that the aggressive powers, specifically the Zionist enemy and the U.S. Administration, will attempt to defile the Palestinian political victories and confront the international support achieved by the Palestinian people's uprising.

Perhaps the U.S. State Department's refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to deliver a speech before the United Nations—a right contained within the headquarters agreement signed between the United Nations and the United States—is an indication of the United States' aggressive stand toward our people and struggle and its unlimited support for the Zionist enemy. The U.S. Administration fears the Palestinian initiatives and political activity, which have rallied great support for our cause, even in U.S. circles.

[Khalil] All indications seem to show that the last PNC session was equivalent to entering a new stage of Palestinian struggle on the grounds of what was achieved in this session in the form of national unity and the

declaration of the Palestinian state. Do you believe that the framework of national unity has become more cohesive and that the declaration of the Palestinian state unified the Palestinian people's forces behind their leadership? Do you think the reason for this is the uprising only, or also the objective reality of all Palestinian struggle interactions?

['Abbas] There is no doubt that the achievements of the extraordinary PNC session would not have seen the light had it not been for the uprising, which was started by the sons of our people about 1 year ago. The declaration of the state hoisted its flag and played its national anthem on the morning of 15 November 1988. All the celebrations, escalation of the masses' struggle movement inside occupied Palestine, and the great joys would not have taken place had it not been for the political momentum the uprising gave Palestinian political activity.

The timing, along with the Palestinian political victories, were perfectly appropriate for declaring the state as a historic right and inevitable condition for solving the conflict and preserving the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Everyone knows that Israel used to propagate the claim that Palestine was a land without a people, a land which must be turned over to a people—the Zionist gangs—without a land. Currently, this simply means that this Palestinian people who do not have a state are not a party to any talks on the future of the region, especially if we recall the UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, which talk about independent states and their right to live in peace.

These resolutions deal with the Palestine question only from the humanitarian side concerning the achievement of a settlement of the refugee problem. Even this settlement is considered an affair concerning the area states themselves without any role by the Palestinians toward their problem, which is the basis of the problems of the entire area. Therefore, the declaration of a state places the State of Palestine face to face with other parties as an expression of the Palestinian people's hopes and as a main negotiator representing this people.

Also, the declaration of the Palestinian state has strengthened the resolve of the heroic stonethrowers and Palestinian revolutionaries. With almost the same intensity, the declaration has enhanced the national Palestinian unity. This was represented through the adherence of the political parties—to which the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front was added in the latest [PNC] session—to this unity. This stand reflects an understanding of the important and decisive role expected by the Palestinian political movement and responds to the calls of the popular uprising which are glorified and respected by all Palestinian factions.

In this regard, I affirm that the factions which participated in the latest PNC session insisted on entrenching national unity among themselves despite the political disagreements over some issues. The continuation of the uprising requires extending aid to our people in the occupied homeland, intensifying action in the international arena, urging the Arab masses to play their role toward supporting the uprising, and enhancing popular and militant unity, which definitely means the unity of Palestinian factions behind the Palestinian leadership. This is what we aimed for during, before, and after the PNC session and sought to entrench in order to safeguard our people's revolution and political achievements which are mainly the product of the uprising.

[Khalil] You, in the PLF, have taken major strides toward the unification of your front's forces and you have been at the threshold of a PLF unification conference.

Now after the martyrdom of Tal'at Ya'qub, where will your efforts to unify your organizational structures reach? Have prospects for convening the conference become closer or further away?

['Abbas] It is no secret that the crisis experienced by the Palestinian revolution factions in 1983, as a result of the division within the Palestinian arena instigated by some forces and regimes, has influenced the unity of our organization, though with less intensity because, despite the crisis, we have managed to keep the bonds of comradeship and dialogue, which helped us overcome the crisis. Actually, a comprehensive agreement was reached after the 18th PNC session. That agreement entrenched the bases which guarantee the PLF unity and development. The agreement, which was signed in Prague at mid-1987, crowned the inter-PLF dialogue which was held under the auspices of representatives from the PLO and factions belonging to the PLO. That agreement approved specified steps toward enhancing the PLF unity.

Indeed, satisfactory steps were taken on this path and toward expediting the unification process. The Prague Agreement was consolidated by an action program and measures which were agreed upon with comrade martyr Tal'at Ya'qub in Algeria in 1987. A command committee was formed under his chairmanship, in which I was deputy chairman, while Comrade 'Ali Ishaq was the committee secretary. A prepratory committee for the convocation of the general conference was formed under Comrade 'Ali Ishaq. The committee was entrusted with fulfilling all issues pertaining to the conference and its convocation. According to the agreement, the conference is supposed to be held in February 1989 after the fulfillment of all unity matters, so that the general conference will be a ceremonial crowning of all steps.

Undoubtedly, the martyrdom of Comrade Tal'at Ya'qub has left a great vacuum and has caused the Palestinian people and the front to lose a unionist struggler who

greatly contributed toward national struggle. His martyrdom before crowning the unionist effort in accordance with the agreed upon program makes us bear great responsibility toward continuing the implementation of the program for which he struggled. I affirm here that the unionist march will continue in accordance with the agreements and program we signed with Comrade Tal'at.

I hope that all comrades and friends will contribute toward this effort. The PLF is the possession of all its strugglers regardless of varying interpretations, if there are any. The general conference will be an opportunity to discuss all political and organizational matters. All issues will be discussed within a framework of democracy of which our front is proud. In accordance with the concerned regulations and the bylaw, and pending the general conference, we will shoulder full responsibility toward maintaining the Front's unity, progress, and assertion of its national role within the PLO. Dialogue will continue with all comrades to reach the hoped for objective.

[Khalil] The U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to 'Arafat was coupled with an objection to your membership in the PLO and with criticism against you personally in terms of terrorism. What do you say?

['Abbas] The U.S. position on our Arab causes in general and the Palestine question in particular is a hostile one It is also biased toward the Zionist enemy. The latest of these positions is its refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to U.S. territories to attend the UN General Assembly sessions. The U.S. Administration knows very well that this refusal conflicts with the headquarters agreement signed with the United Nations. Nevertheless, The United States shamelessly tried to tell the world that it has its own laws and policies, which conflict with the international norms and laws.

We still remember Washington's repeated attempts to abort our people's uprising in the occupied homeland by dispatching its Secretary of State George Shultz, who, during his tour of the region, ignored the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and tried to impose solutions that would polish the Zionist enemy's image which was tarnished by the uprising. We also recall U.S. attempts to prevent the Security Council from condemning the Zionist occupation authorities' practices against our people in their occupied homeland.

This position conflicts with the international community's support for our people's struggle, rights, and role as a persecuted people who are seeking freedom in accordance with the international legitimacy. Here, we can refer to the political statement issued by the the PNC during its recent session—a statement which won the support of the world countries because it clarifies our people's goals. Yet, Washington continues its refusal to recognize our people's legitimate rights.

The refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa indicates Washington's rejection of the logic of Palestinian justice and peace, which are based on securing our people's inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil. These rights were explained by the PNC's political statement, which was very moderate in dealing with the political side of the issue.

The major Palestinian forces approved it in order to make a serious contribution to entrenching world peace. But the U.S. Administration completely rejected the statement, giving the world further evidence of its hostility to peace, justice, the Arab nation, and the world public opinion. Its denial of the visa also conflicts with the international law and the headquarters agreement.

This U.S. behavior clearly indicates that calm Palestinian logic does not work with Washington and that there is no place for the Palestinian moderation in the U.S. Administration, which is talking about human rights in many places but denies them to the Palestinian people. Washington supports these rights in certain countries, while it calls the Palestinian people's struggle to win these rights as terrorism. Hence, we can say U.S. justifications for the denial of the visa to Yasir 'Arafat are false and unfair.

Even if we assume that the U.S. Administration does not want to grant the visa because of the existence of U.S. adversaries within the Palestinian leadership, we can say that this U.S. position will increase the conflict and encourage further extremism. It also will not contribute to creating a favorable climate for peace in the region.

The word "terrorism" used by Washington to describe the Palestinian struggle or some symbols of this struggle should be returned to Washington, the primary source of terrorism in the world. Even if we use the U.S. criterion to define terrorism, we still ask: How could the United States secretly receive Iranian envoys and make deals with them in what is known as Irangate at a time when the United States was exposed to real Iranian terrorist operations? How can Washington receive Yitzhaq Shamir, assassin of UN mediator Count Bernadotte for his attempts to find a solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict in the late 1940's?

The U.S. Administration is the last that has the right to talk about terrorism because it leads such operations. It invaded Grenada, supports the Contras in Nicaragua and repressive regimes in many countries, backs Zionist military aggressions in Lebanon, and bombed civilians in Libya.

If Washington wants to maintain its interests and protect its citizens, then it should meet the just and legitimate demands of the Palestinian people.

Finally, Washington claims that it denied 'Arafat a visa because of my presence in the PLO. But I remind it that the U.S. Justice Department called off legal prosecution against me a year ago because of the lack of evidence to justify this prosecution.

Washington is using my name as a pretext to stop the Palestinian peace offensive. It will always find reasons to stand against our peoples' rights.

We realized in advance that the political battle is much tougher than the military battle. It has never occured to us that the aggression against us will end by merely the good intentions that we might declare. We realize that the United States will not accept less than our full capitulation. Even in this case, it will not stop its inherent hostility toward peoples, especially the Palestinian people.

The logic of the U.S. Administration's officials is clear. The comment by Jeane Kirkpatrick, former U.S. representative at the United Nations, on the PNC resolutions shows the nature of the U.S. stand, which will not accept less than full submission to the U.S arrogance and the Zionist aggression. I think that the response to this U.S. impudence should stem from a unified Arab action that makes the United States understand that the Arab nation has a dignity that must be respected. It should also stem from an international stand that puts an end to U.S. disdain of world peace.

There can be no peace in our region without the recognition of our people's rights. The only thing that can help bring about a just peace in our region and the world is the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to live in an independent state in their homeland, like all peoples of the world.

One cannot escape facts for long. Facts will inevitably impose themselves one way or another. We are struggling for the right of our people, who have long suffered coercion, deprivation, and dispersion. We will continue performing our duty in a way that serves our national cause, stressing that U.S. and Zionist terrorism cannot be confronted only by good intentions.

[Khalil] Most of the Arab countries, excluding Lebanon and Syria, recognized the Palestinian state. Do you expect a Syrian recognition? And how do you explain Lebanon's position? Is this position due to Lebanon's objective circumstances?

['Abbas] The great majority of the Arab countries responded favorably to the declaration of the Palestinian state through their welcome and recognition of this state. As known, Algeria was the first country to recognize the state. Kuwait followed suit on the same day. Recognitions then began to follow. As to why Syria and Lebanon have not yet recognized the state, this, undoubtedly, is linked to the relations between the PLO and the Syrian regime. Anyway, we hope that Damascus will recognize the Palestinian state, especially since the number of countries recognizing the state is constantly increasing. It should be borne in mind that Syria welcomed and supported the PNC resolutions, including the declaration of the state.

[Khalil] 'Arafat recently said in Kuwait that an Arab country sent sabotage groups to Europe to carry out bomb attacks during his address to the United Nations so as to embarrass him and undermine the possibility of the world community recognizing the Palestinian state. Do you have any details?

['Abbas] I have no details about the dispatch of sabotage groups to Europe by an Arab regime to negatively affect the Palestinian moves at the United Nations, the moves that aborted the U.S. State Department's refusal of a visa to brother Yasir 'Arafat.

[Khalil] From an objective point of view and in your capacity as a Palestinian leader, when do you expect the Palestinian state to materialize?

['Abbas] The Palestinian national will, in and outside the occupied homeland, with the achievements it has scored in terms of important politcal feats through the uprising of our people in the occupied territories, the struggle of our revolutionaries, and the military operations against the Zionist enemy, has imposed the idea of the Palestinian state that was proclaimed and won broad Arab and international recognition. Had it not been for the persistent and escalating struggle of our people and revolutionaries, the proclamation of this state would have been delayed. The Palestinian struggle, which has been galvanized by the uprising, has provided Palestinian political action the opportunity to submit the question of the state forcefully.

In this respect, we would like to point out that the Palestinian state is part of the moral heritage of the Palestinian individual and his national and militant perception. Therefore, this state already existed before the PNC proclaimed it. As for real independence, it is linked to many local and international factors. It is, as yet, difficult to set a date for the materialization of the Palestinian state. It depends on several factors, such as acceptance by the U.S. Administration of the PLO's participation in the international Middle East peace conference, the Zionist stand rejecting the idea of the international conference, and Shamir's asumption of power, which may bring about new developments further complicating the issue and delaying the international conference.

It is important to note here that a united Arab stand is important for the Palestinian state and the international conference. The new U.S. Administration under George Bush will have a role to play in bringing closer or delaying the attainment of the Palestinian state. We must also not forget the importance of the support offered by the Palestinian people's friends, foremost

being the socialist bloc countries under the Soviet Union, the assistance of the African and nonaligned countries, and the role they will have to play to convene the international conference as early as possible.

[Khalil] Some predict the following scenario: The uprising will escalate and intensify in the next 6 months; the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will be placed under international supervision; international forces will be sent to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to carry out a disengagement between the Israeli Army and Palestimian citizens; then a provisional Palestinian government will be formed while international supervision remains for 3 years. This will be followed by a referendum in which Palestinians in and outside the occupied homeland decide on the type of rule they want. How much of this scenario is realistic?

['Abbas] I do not expect the international conference to convene in the foreseeable future. What I believe to be more realistic is that Israel will unilaterally withdraw from populated areas and maintain forces at certain security points, which will allow Israel to deal with our people's uprising in a manner that will reduce its human losses and direct involvement in the cities. In spite of this, our people's uprising will continue, supported by military action across the borders and accompanied by political and diplomatic activities that will impose a new state of affairs making possible the dispatch of international forces as a first step on the road to the exercise by our Palestinian people of their political prerogatives.

However, I do not believe that this can take place as easily as some imagine. The battle will further escalate. The struggle will witness more repressive measures by the enemy against our people, who will confront this repression with firmness and determination on the road to attaining their legitimate objectives. In my opinion, the Zionist enemy will resort to a solution through the international conference only if there are new realities and a tangible change takes place in the U.S. stand. It seems that the conflict will be settled by realities before an international conference convenes.

We must take into account that the enemy will not change its stands easily. Supported by the U.S. Administration, the Zionist enemy may carry out its aggression beyond the Palestinian land to impose new realities that will be in its favor. From this premise, additional militant efforts and sacrifices are needed to bring the Palestinian state into being.

[Khalil] How do you view the issue of confederation with Jordan after the establishment of the state? Do you believe that confederation is possible in light of the present circumstances in relations between Jordan and the PLO on the basis of the Al-'Aqabah summit?

['Abbas] The establishment of distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples after the establishment of the Palestinian state is essential and decisive to the two sides. We should mention here the harmony and identity between the peoples of Palestine and Jordan. The idea of confederation is the most suitable of the unity formulas discussed by the PLO's leadership. The PLO will work to apply this formula through an agreement with Jordan after the establishment of the Palestinian state on the ground. This requires the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to hold a long series of consultations to deepen the state of understanding between the two countries' officials and to lay down the bases to give momentum to the confederate state.

We believe that the two sides need to hold summits or lower-level meetings to consolidate the confidence, which has been undermined many times because of differences in viewpoints vis-a-vis some political details and each side's assessments.

We believe that the political statement issued by the recent PNC session accurately expresses the way to build this relationship. The statement says that the future relationship between the states of Jordan and Palestine will be established on the basis of confederation and the voluntary, free choice of the two sisterly peoples to reinforce their historical ties and common vital interests.

[Khalil] Relations have been restored between Algeria and Egypt, and Syria and Egypt are expected to restore their relations. Does this mean that the occupation of leading positions in the region by some Arab countries has ended?

['Abbas] It is logical and natural to see full diplomatic relations among the Arab countries. This is even necessary in light of the dangers and problems to which the great Arab homeland is being exposed because of the state of fragmentation and intrahostilities, which turned the region into a zone for American influence and the Zionist enemy's aggression and encroachment.

It was also logical to see Algiers and Cairo restoring diplomatic relations out of our conviction in the importance of Egypt's regional role. We also believe that strengthening Arab-Egyptian relations, particularly Egypt's relations with countries known for their pan-Arab stands confronting imperialist schemes, will strengthen the general Arab stand supporting our people's struggle and contribute to removing Egypt further from the Camp David policy.

There is no doubt that Egypt's absence from the arena of Arab action in clashing with imperialism has pushed the region into a furnace of dangers, problems, and retreats. Cairo's role is major whether in peace or war. We believe that the Algerian role at this stage will strengthen the trend confronting imperialism and Zionism.

With regard to the restoration of relations between Damascus and Cairo, we do not see any reason preventing the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two capitals.

[Khalil] 'Arafat said that the issue of the Palestinian passport is serious and the Arab leaders are expected to agree on it. This issue has been discussed for many years. Can we say that its implementation will be near in the wake of the establishment of the Palestinian state?

['Abbas] Each Palestinian's hope is to have a Palestinian passport. The struggle to achieve this started many years ago. The Arab League Council issued many approvals. However, it was not implemented for many reasons related to the internal Arab situation itself. There is no doubt that the proclamation of the Palestinian state also means the announcement of the Palestinian passport project. This requires Palestinian-Arab contacts and measures that can be concluded even before the establishment of the Palestinian state on the ground if the Arab governments' intentions are good.

[Khalil] Washington said that the PNC resolutions are insufficient. In light of your information, do you believe that the United Sates can indirectly open the door for the PLO to enter the American club, or will the American veto on the Palestinian people continue as it has throughout the years?

['Abbas] There is no doubt we expected the U.S. Administration to show negative reactions toward the recent PNC resolutions. The American and Zionist stands in this direction are completely harmonious. Consequently, America's war against us will not end unless Washington realizes that its interests in the region will be endangered if it continues with its hostile policy to the peoples in the Arab region, particularly the Palestinian people.

The American stand will remain as it is, and our people will continue to confront the American veto against their legitimate ambitions. To confront this stand, Arab stands must be united, and animosity against imperialism must be escalated.

[Khalil] George Bush is now entering the White House, and Shamir is once again entering the Israeli Prime Ministry. At this time, 'Arafat is declaring a Palestinian state. What is Bush's expected move? And do the Israeli raids against Lebanese territories constiiute the unchangeable answer to this?

['Abbas] Bush is Reagan's heir after serving 8 years as his deputy. Therefore, Bush will keep the outline of Reagan's policy when he soon assumes power. Until Bush begins thinking about the Middle East, he needs several months to reorganize his administration and study the important files, including the Palestinian file.

Bush is not expected to make dramatic steps to end the region's crisis if the Zionist leadership does not change its extremist and aggressive policies. Southern Lebanon and the camps of our people will continue to be targets for the U.S.-backed Zionist agression.

[Khalil] Do you think that having Shamir once again as prime minister of Israel strengthens the policy of "an alternate homeland"? And do you expect an Arab-Israeli military struggle, or will the struggle continue to be between the Palestinians and Israel?

['Abbas] The presence of Shamir at the head of the Israeli leadership consolidates the more rightest trends among the community of Zionist settlements. These trends include freezing the idea of the international conference and adopting a more violent policy against our people in the occupied territories, including deportations, expulsion, and the intensification of brutal acts. The Zionist right-wing might even launch war against Jordan or Lebanon.

Shamir's political options do not go beyond the idea of an alternate homeland, a limited autonomy to the people in the West Bank and Gaza, or a settlement of the Zionist entity's problems with the surrounding Arab countries through bilateral talks. His security options are those I mentioned. I think that the Palestinian-Zionist struggle may intensify with the assumption of power by the Zionist right-wing.

[Khalil] How do you view the shape of our Palestinian state, given your knowledge of the Palestinian leadership's political inclination and of the recent PNC political statement?

['Abbas] The shape of the Palestinian state was determined by the independence document adopted by the PNC in the early hours of 15 November 1988. It is a state for the Palestinians wherever they exist, with Jerusalem as its capital. In this state, the Palestinians enjoy their national and cultural identity in full equality. The state shall have a democratic parliamentary system based on equality and social justice.

The state is part of the Arab homeland, committed to the Arab League Charter and the principles of the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. It is a peace-loving state that believes in settling regional and international conflicts by peaceful means, and so forth.

These are the most important characteristics of the Palestinian state that was declared. As to who will lead this state, the Palestinian people will choose their leadership.

The discussions on the declaration of the state during the PNC meeting faced no significant difficulties. The dialogue and debate were characterized by a high level of

seriousness, responsibility, and maturity—characteristics of the Palestinian national movement. The democratic dialogue and the awareness showed therein very clearly reflected our people's competence for independence, freedom, and the establishment of their state. The same characteristics also appeared during the discussion of the political statement, where disagreements emerged among the Palestinian parties to the debate. Out of its deep conviction of the soundness of the national inclinations, the PLF voted for the political statement and the declaration of the state.

We believe that the resolutions of the PNC—the uprising session, the Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] session—are historical resolutions that crowned the achievements of our people's struggle and their heroic uprising. They aimed at developing and deepening these achievements, and reflected the Palestinian revolution's comprehension of the facts at the critical stage through which our national cause is passing.

All the factions that attended the PNC join us in this assessment. The debate, therefore, was characterized by a high level of seriousness and concern. The Palestinian state and the political statement will add to the movement of the Palestinian struggle and will give the Palestinians additional support and allies.

PLO's Call No 30 Denies Leadership Divisions

JN0612202388 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Dec 88

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Call No 30 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Popular Uprising in the occupied territories has called for making 11 and 15 December days of struggle against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the occasion of the speech PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will deliver on behalf of Palestine at the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

Call No 30, whose contents were reported by AFP, stressed the unity of ranks of the Unified National Leadership of the Popular Uprising in the occupied territories and vehemently denied recent reports that there are differences within the Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories.

Egypt

Efforts To Reconcile With Syria Pursued

PM0612165588 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt: Reconciliation With Syria and Libya Likely"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that there are plans to pursue the Arab mediatory contacts to reconcile Egypt and Syria by holding a meeting next week in Geneva between Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's meetings to be held to discuss the Palestine issue.

The sources said that the contacts, which began some time ago, have resulted in Cairo and Damascus agreeing to halt the media campaigns. At Arab and international organization and union meetings Jordan has also been urging Syria to adopt positive stances toward Egypt.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that Jordanian mediators are aiming by means of gradual steps to prepare for a summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, to be attended by the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, in an Arab capital—which, according to reports, is likely to be Amman or Al-'Aqabah.

Signs of relaxation in relations between Egypt and Syria began to emerge after a Syrian official praised Cairo's position on the PNC decisions in Algiers. In response, Egyptian sources said that the statement reflected goodwill that could help restore relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Reviews Foreign Policy, U.S. Visa Issue

NC0612194188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Al-Zaqaziq, 6 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that Egypt has been and continues to be the most consistent country throughout history and in modern times in openly supporting the Palestinian national rights.

In his meeting today with the popular and executive leaders of Al-Sharqiyah Governorate, President Mubarak underscored Egypt's support for the results of the PNC session recently held in Algiers. He said that the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state was based on UN and Security Council resolutions and on Resolution No 181 of 1947, which was passed by the UN General Assembly and marked the birth of the state of Israel and the state of Palestine. The resolution, he added, also based on Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, has drawn up the borders of the Palestinian state, renounced terrorism, and approved confederation with Jordan.

President Mubarak stressed the importance and uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the need for Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. He noted Egypt's constant efforts to achieve this coordination and the results of the Al-'Aqabah summit; namely, the great rapprochement and the harmony of Jordanian-Palestinian stands, concepts, and policies in a manner that serves the higher interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and ultimately the interest of Arab action.

President Mubarak said at the meeting that Egypt has never seen such a balance in its international relations as it is witnessing at this stage. He added that national independence and the independence of the Egyptian will and decision-making are the ultimate objectives of Egypt's foreign policy. He stressed that Egypt's foreign policy has brought about great achievements in the balance of Egypt's international relations, a constant improvement in its relations with the international community, the Arab accord, and the start of coordinating the pan-Arab stands.

President Mubarak praised the historic and close relations with fraternal Sudan. He said that these relations have stood fast in the past and will stand fast in the future against any attempts to create sedition. He also said that Egyptian-Jordanian relations are at their best and that consultation between Egyptian and Jordanian leaders are regular and are harnessed to serve the cause of a just peace in the Middle East and to strengthen Arab solidarity.

President Mubarak also praised Egyptian-Iraqi relations and their close cooperation and understanding in all fields, as well as the cordial feelings that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has for Egypt and its people. The president also praised the relations between Egypt, the Gulf states, and all the Arab countries.

To a question about the position of the Arab world toward the U.S. decision denying PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to New York, President Mubarak said that the decision drew various strong reactions within the Arab world and world public. He said it is imperative to coordinate the stands of the Arab countries in a collective, objective, and rational manner that is conducive to achieving the supreme Arab interests for stability and an all-embracing just peace.

President Mubarak emphasized that 'Arafat will deliver the Palestinian people's speech in Geneva and that it will receive the attention and study of the world at large. The speech will be a good opportunity to prove the serious Arab and Palestinian course toward a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Al-Baz Comments on 'Arafat's Talks With Mubarak

JN0612203588 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
5 Dec 88 p 21

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dr Usamah al-Baz, adviser to President Mubarak on political affairs, has said in exclusive statements to AL-WATAN that 'Arafat's visit comes as a continuation of Mubarak's meetings with Jordanian King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. He described these talks as part of the wider activity and consultations on the Arab arena. He said that 'Arafat had discussed with President Mubarak the possibility of assuming new stands which might serve the interest of the Palestine question, especially after the UN General Assembly was moved to Geneva from New York.

Al-Baz affirmed that the Arab moves in the next stage will concentrate on the Palestine question. He said that many consultations and contacts were being held between the Arab countries for action on this issue. Therefore, the related and successive meetings within a short period of time between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat are important.

In his statements to AL-WATAN, Dr Al-Baz said that 'Arafat has toured practically all Arab countries, held discussions with their leaders and informed them of the PLO and the Palestinian people's ideas dealing with the moves within the coming stage to gain the maximum amount of effectiveness for the stands taken by the PLO. [passage omitted]

Paper on 'Arafat Meeting With Jewish Figures

NC0712070988 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0622 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper describes Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with a delegation of American Jewish figures in Stockholm and his subsequent meeting with the Swedish prime minister as decisive blows against the intensive Israeli campaign which seeks to limit the Palestinian issue's expected gains in the wake of the PNC resolutions.

In its editorial today, the paper says: "This meeting is a successful step by 'Arafat to storm the wall of rejection and siege that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the Jewish lobby tried to impose on the PLO chairman to paralyze his ability to address international public opinion from the UN forum in New York and U.S. public opinion through his sojourn as guest of the international organization."

The paper asserts that 'Arafat's correct view and his moderate tone of sincere dialogue is an advanced step within the efforts to achieve peace and an incentive for all parties to venture into the peace process.

The paper believes that, although the Jewish delegation does not represent particular organizations, it includes influential personalities who can do much to rectify the U.S. and Israeli positions and, indeed, can contribute to restoring credibility to U.S. policy, which has lost much through Shultz' refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa.

AL-AHRAM Cited on Joint Tabah Committee

NC0712073388 Cairo MENA in English
0723 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] [No dateline as received] "AL-AHRAM" has learned that an Egyptian-Israeli joint committee is being formed to supervise technical aspects of implementing international arbitration verdict on Tabah.

The technical aspects include compensations for the Israeli facilities in Tabah, regulations of tourist interflow, entry visas, and entry fees.

The technical issues also include demarcation of the border line between Egypt and Palestinian state under mandate up to the Sea side. Dr Mufid Shihab, member of defence panel on Tabah case said. The two sides' military liaison officers will meet before December 13 to work out a timetable to start withdrawal in 45 days ending late in January 1989. Accordingly Egypt will receive Tabah and the other border points in the set date, he explained.

AL-AHRAM on Reducing Size of Subsidized Bread

JN0712065188 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
3 Dec 88 p 8

[By Hasan Sallumah]

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, has approved the development of local bread, which is being sold at 2 piasters, into small "tabaqi" bread, thereby saving about 1 million tonnes of imported wheat annually at a cost of 350 million pounds, provided that the diameter of the small "tabaqi" bread is 18 cm and is sold next to the big 20 cm-diameter "tabaqi" bread, which is sold at 5 piasters.

The deputy prime minister and the Al-Jizah Governor 'Umar 'Abd al-Akhir have agreed to carry out this experiment which was undertaken by Dr Ahmad Khurshid, chairman of the Bread Research Department at the Agricultural Research Center for the Development of Ordinary Local Bread

Dr Khurshid affirmed that the process of flattening the bread ensures an even spread and keeps the bread fresh for a long time in the refrigerat-opr, which will help in rationalizing the consumption of bread and, consequently, in saving a considerable quantity of imported wheat. He also affirmed that selling bread by diameter rather than by weight benefits all sides.

The consumer gets bread that is free of pith, the baker saves a quantity of flour reaching up to 20 percent, and the government saves more than 25 percent. The matter now requires a decision by the Ministry of Supply specifying the diameter of the small "tabaqi" bread.

President Husni Mubarak had referred to this experiment when he recently visited the Bread Research Department at the Agricultural Research Center. He also called for the utilization of the center's technical capabilities and equipment in appraising the qualities of imported wheat and flour which is imported from abroad in its capacity as a neutral scientific quarter, provided this is coordinated among the Ministries of Agriculture, Supply, and Health.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Chadian Minister, Delegation

LD0712010388 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian minister of information and civic orientation, and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Chad's ambassador to France Ahmad Allam-mi; Mahamat Nouri, commissioner for foreign relations; Driss Gabi, adviser at the Defense Ministry; Abacherif Kathir, deputy (?mayor) of Ndjamena; and the Chadian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The Chadian minister delivered to the brother leader of the revolution a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre in which he expressed happiness at the positive development of relations between the two fraternal and neighboring countries.

In his message the Chadian president affirmed to the brother leader of the revolution his desire to turn over a new leaf in relations between the two friendly countries and peoples.

Habre lauded the brother leader's initiative toward Chad, noting that this initiative was responsible for taking the two countries into this prepared and encouraging situation.

In his message the Chadian president noted the firm historical relations that have (?prevailed) at all times between Libya and Chad and between the Libyan Arab people and the Chadian people. He affirmed that the two peoples (?have) in addition to neighborliness a long history, cultural heritage, and kinship ties.

He affirmed that the two fraternal peoples proved that they are always in solidarity with one another against the common enemy.

The Chadian president ended his message by saying that Chad is strongly resolved to work sincerely and truly to entrench the rapprochement and strengthen and promote the fraternal relations and solidarity between the two fraternal countries.

Union of Arab Radios Meets in Tripoli

LD0412154088 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The meetings of the Management Council of the Union of Arab Radio Stations began this morning in Tripoli.

The secretary of the radio station of Great Jamahiriyah addressed the opening session welcoming the directors and delegates of the Arab radio stations. He lauded the existing cooperation in the field of the unification of radio and TV broadcasting amongst Great Jamahiriyah, Tunisia and Algeria as well as radio cooperation in broadcasting Arab programmes via Arabsat.

He reaffirmed the importance of the continuation of cooperation between various Arab radio stations for the realisation of the objectives of our Arab nation in total Arab unity.

Then the participants listened to the report of the president of the union on the activities of the union past and future.

A source at the Council said that the meetings are to discuss a number of issues including the budget, laws and regulations and organisations as well as the relations of the union with members and the activities of the radio centres in Algeria, Damascus and Baghdad.

Also the Council is to review a number of subjects amongst them the work of radio stations, centimetre [as received] in the Arab world and exchange of news amongst the members.

A programme was laid down for the participants to visit to a number of civilised achievements realised on the soil of the Great Al-Fatih revolution as a result of the revolution.

Sudan

Unionist Party Leader on Agreement With Garang

PM0712095488 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 88 p 3

[Ahmad Makhtum report: "Sudanese Unionist Party Deputy Secretary General Denies Existence of Secret Clauses With Garang"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] Deputy Secretary General Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has denied the existence of any secret clauses in the agreement signed by party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani with the leader of the rebel movement in South Sudan, Colonel John Garang.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT during a private visit to Jeddah, al-Husayn said: There were no secret clauses. Nor did we talk with Garang about this. We only heard about it from those who are rejecting the peace agreement in an attempt to find something against it.

In fact when we, the DUP leadership, sat down with the movement's leaders we discussed broad outlines, foremost among which were a halt to the bloodshed and the holding of direct negotiations within the context of the constitutional conference scheduled for the end of the month. I am therefore amazed that there is talk about secret clauses in the agreement.

The DUP deputy secretary general denied all reports of an agreement on John Garang's integration into the Sudanese Armed Forces. He pointed out that the agreement which his party signed with John Garang's movement differs from the previous initiatives, including the Koka Dam initiative signed after the uprising in 1985.

He said: There is a clear difference between the two initiatives. The Koka Dam agreement called for the abolition of the September 1983 laws and their replacement by the 1974 laws. Whereas our recent agreement calls for the freezing of Islamic punishment laws until the constitutional conference is held. Besides, previous agreements did not set a date for the constitutional conference, but we did so in our latest agreement.

Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn also talked about his party's opinion of reports of a unity plan between Sudan and Libya. He said:

Our party is the only one that has cared about unity ever since its establishment in the forties. So we are unionists. As for the unity plan between Sudan and Libya, we totally reject the plan because our internal problems must be taken into account and given precedence. These include the ongoing war in the South and deteriorating security conditions in Darfur Province.

Security must be established and political and development stability must be brought about. Unity with Libya has emerged prematurely. When Sudan's circumstances are suitable, we will be able to talk about comprehensive Arab unity, without joining any blocs.

Al-Husayn concluded his remarks by saying that his party has convened a meeting of all the organizations supporting the peace initiative to rally the people around the initiative, which he described as similar to Sudan's independence.

Relief Operations Noted in Army-Controlled South

EA0612202988 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Since the day before yesterday, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been running relief operations for the famine-affected people in the military operations areas in the southern regions in those places under the control of the Armed Forces.

Tunisia

Libya's Al-Muntasir, Delegation Arrive for Talks

LD0612171488 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Tunis this afternoon leading the Libyan delegation at the fourth session of the Higher Tunisian-Libyan Joint Committee. 'Umar al-Muntasir and his accompanying delegation were welcomed at Tunis-Carthage International Airport by Premier Hedi Baccouche, a number of Tunisian Government officials, and members of the Libyan delegation which took part in the preparatory meetings of the Higher Joint Committee.

After inspecting a contingent of the Tunisian National Army which came to greet him, 'Umar al-Muntasir made a statement at the airport VIP hall and asserted: Our visit to Tunisia—which is a very dear part of our Arab homeland—will be an opportunity to add more strength toward the achievement of our goal—the unity of the Arab Maghreb which is an important stage in building comprehensive Arab unity.

He added that his talks during this visit fall within the framework laid down by the leaders of the brotherly countries, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and is an attempt to progress in the march of cooperation and integration between the two peoples in Tunisia and Jamahiriyah.

Baccouche, Al-Muntasir Confer

LD0612224988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche conferred at the government palace at Casbah this afternoon with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who is currently in Tunis to head the Libyan delegation at the meetings of the higher Tunisian-Libyan joint committee.

The meeting was attended on the Tunisian side by Habib Ammar, minister of state and special adviser to the president; Abdelhamid Escheikh, foreign minister; Habib Ben Yahia, secretary of state attached to the foreign minister.

On the Libyan side: Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and Fawzi al-Shakshuki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Service. The meeting was also attended by the two countries' high commissioners.

Bahrain

Amir on Ties With Iran, 'Arafat Visa Denial

JN0612145588 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 5 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Bahrain, Dec 4, (Agencies)—Relations between Iran and Gulf Arab states have improved since the August ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, Bahrain's Amir said in remarks published today.

Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah told Bahrain's AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper he hoped to see normal ties between Iran and its Gulf neighbours, which generally supported Iraq in the eight-year war.

"Now, after the ceasefire, there is a general move towards strengthening relations between the region's states, including Iran, based on the principle of mutual respect and safeguarding regional peace," he was quoted as saying.

"Bahrain-Iran relations have lately enjoyed a remarkable growth and I hope to see normal relations between Gulf countries and Iran," he said.

"Iran is a neighbouring Muslim country and peace in the region concerns it to the same extent as its Gulf neighbours," he added.

Shaykh 'Isa said a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit due to begin in Bahrain on Dec 19 would deal with Arab unity and moves to set up a Palestinian state.

"Since the GCC is an inseparable part of the Arab family it is only natural that the Palestine case and the resolutions of the Palestine National Council be first on the summit agenda," he said.

"We all support the Palestinian cause with all means available," he added.

The Amir described the U.S. Administration's refusal to grant Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the UN General Assembly for the sake of a Palestinian settlement as "astonishing...since it is a stand that is impractical and illogical."

He said the U.S. action was breach of the UN headquarters agreement with Washington, and weakens the United Nations in its attempts to foster peace in the world.

He said he hoped Washington would reconsider its stand toward the PLO and conduct negotiations with the Palestinian organisation.

The Amir expressed confidence that the "wise step" of Iraq and Iran to accept a truce, including stopping the attacks on Gulf shipping and mining sea lanes, would spur an economic boom in the region.

Shaykh 'Isa said there had been progress towards a GCC agreement outlining economic co-operation on a broad front, but certain regulations still required study.

He also said co-operation between Egypt and GCC states was expanding in many fields, particularly arms manufacture.

"I think we are noticing a concept in co-operation in arms manufacture between Egypt and Arab countries that will result in a joint Arab armament industry," he said.

Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan Arrives in Manama

JN0712101888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0913 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, arrived here today. [passage omitted]

Received by Amir

JN0712123288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1138 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 7 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the close relations between the two countries, current developments in the region, and issues of common interest.

The message was conveyed by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, who was received by his highness the amir of Bahrain in Manama this morning. During the meeting they reviewed developments in both the Gulf and Arab arenas as well as issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, Housing Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah, and Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi.

Kuwait

Libya's Colonel al-Kharrubi, Delegation Arrive

LD0612212688 Tripoli JANA in English 1813 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Al-Kanun [December] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi arrived in Kuwait before noon today.

Welcoming Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi and his accompanying delegation on arrival was Engineer Muhammad Sulayman al-Sa'id, the consultant-advisor at the Amiri Diwan and the head of the protocol in Kuwait, the secretary and the members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Kuwait.

Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi gave a statement to journalists on arrival in Kuwait expressing his pleasure to visit sisterly Kuwait.

He said: "We came to Kuwait—our second country—carrying greetings of the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its great revolution to the amir and people of Arab Kuwait."

He pointed out that his visit to Kuwait comes within the framework of following-up the Arab union project proposed by the leader of the revolution to Arab kings and presidents and to conduct many meetings with officials in Kuwait which will include all subjects of mutual interest to both sisterly countries.

Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi confirmed Great Jamahiriyah's readiness to concentrate contacts and consultations with Kuwait and the rest of the Arab countries for the benefit and in the interest of the Arab nation and to achieve its unity from the ocean to the Gulf. He pointed out that Arab unity is the only option open to the Arab nation to accomplish its security, ascendancy, glory and progress.

He said that the state of division and fragmentation the Arab nation is suffering from has given its enemies the opportunity to hit it, pointing in this respect to the anti Arab nation stances of the U.S. Administration and its attempt to silence the Arab voice in international functions especially its recent acts of barring Yasir 'Arafat from attending the sessions of the U.N. General Assembly to debate the Palestine issue.

He stressed that such act from the U.S. Administration, if not confronted by the Arab nation, will be a seed of evil America is planting in an attempt to introduce new innovations to split the world.

Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi left Baghdad this morning at the end of a 2 day visit to sisterly Iraq, during which he has conducted many meetings with officials in Iraq on top of whom President Saddam Husayn.

Bidding him farewell were Dr. Sa'dur Hammadi the member of the Revolutionary Command Council and the minister of state for foreign affairs in Iraq, the secretary and staff members of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Iraq.

In a statement to journalists, prior to his departure from Baghdad International Airport, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi praised the positive outcome of his visit to Iraq: "This visit was very successful and its outcome will be clear and felt in both sisterly countries."

He indicated that he relayed a verbal message to President Saddam Husayn from the leader of the revolution, conducted a series of discussions and meetings with officials in Iraq on bilateral relations and current Arab issues on top of which the Palestine cause apart from nationalistic dialogues on the aspirations of the Arab nation towards the pan-Arab unity.

Concluding his statement, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the fraternal reception he and his accompanying delegation had received in Iraq. He expressed hope that such meetings and visits be repeated on all levels to realise the Arab nation's unity, integrity, liberation and progress.

Somali Minister of State Arrives 6 Dec

LD0612214388 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Democratic Republic of Somalia, arrived in the country this evening from Baghdad on a visit which will last several days. [passage omitted]

According to KUNA, the Somali minister will deliver a letter to his highness the amir from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre concerning bilateral relations.

Cabinet Urges All To Adhere to New OPEC Quotas

LD0412151688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1307 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 4 (KUNA)—Kuwait said on Sunday that strict abidance by OPEC's new output-sharing accord, and production restraint on the part of non-OPEC producers would surely restore stability to international oil markets and bolster depressed oil prices.

The Kuwaiti Cabinet, which met for its weekly session under the chairmanship of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, urged all OPEC countries to adhere to individual quotas allotted under the new agreement that set the organization's new celing at 18.5 million barrels a day.

"The Council of Ministers expressed hope that all member countries would stick to the agreement, and called on producers outside the organization to cooperate with OPEC to fulfill common interest, said Cabinet spokesman, Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid after the meeting.

He added that the Cabinet expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of OPEC's November meeting which gave Iraq and Iran equal quotas in the first half of the new year.

The Council of Ministers believed that oil prices would firm and markets would calm if all producers, OPEC and otherwise, cut down their production to mop up the market glut, Al-Rashid, the state minister for cabinet affairs, went on.

Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on the OPEC deliberations, held in Vienna last month, the spokesman added.

Oman

Officials Confer With Frank Carlucci 3 Dec

JN0312122588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Muscat, 3 Dec (WAKH)—Al-Mu'tasim ibn Humud Al Bu Sa'id, Omani minister of state for defense affairs, met today with U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of joint interest.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Secretary Carlucci.

On the Omani side, the meeting was attended by the head of administration and supplies at the Defense Ministry, the commanders of the Omani Armed Forces' ground, air, and naval corps, the assistant chief of staff, and a number of Defense Ministry officials.

Carlucci, who arrived last night, met earlier today with Fahr ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs.

PDRY

Information Protocol Signed With Somalia

EA0412201088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] A protocol on cooperation in culture and information for 1989-1990 was signed this evening at the Golden Beach Hotel in Aden between the PDRY and the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR].

It was signed for Yemen by Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information, and for Somalia by Dr Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, SDR minister of information, national guidance, and tourism [title as heard].

The protocol provides for exchanges of delegations and experience in culture, information, and tourism for 1989 and 1990 and the promotion of bilateral relations in radio, TV, news, press agencies, tourism, and the artistic unions. It also provides for exchanges of artistic groups and the holding of cultural weeks and exhibitions in the two fraternal countries.

The signing ceremony was attended by a number of officials of our Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Culture and Information and by Brother 'Abd al-Salam Adam, the SDR ambassador in Aden.

Al-Bid Chairs YSP Political Bureau Meeting

EA0612204488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The YSP Political Bureau held a regular session from 4 to 6 December under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

The Political Bureau discussed a number of issues, the most important being a memorandum on the directions of the socioeconomic plan for 1989; a memorandum on establishing a Yemeni-Soviet fishing company; the principal directions for amending the Institutions Law No 13 for 1979; the law on the organization of financial relations in state institutions No 7 for 1984; a report on legislation and rules regulating the work of foreign companies working in the Republic; the principal directions of the law of the Higher National Defense Council; and a report on the results of the visit by a Soviet delegation led by Comrade Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the energy complex in the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Political Bureau made a number of decisions by which it assigned the Presidium and the Council of Ministers to take the necessary measures to prepare the 1989 plan and to issue the laws referred to concerning the directions stipulated.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Chairs Armed Forces Modernization Meeting

EA0612204588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Colonel 'Ali Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today chaired at his office in the General Command a meeting of the leading general staff of the Armed Forces.

During this meeting, they discussed future plans for 1989 for the development and modernization of the Armed Forces in light of the resolutions and recommendations of the fourth general conference of the General People's Congress. They also assessed the Armed Forces' performance over the past period.

Ramadan Makes Statement, Leaves for Bahrain

JN0712082688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and President leader Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, left Baghdad for Bahrain this morning. In a statement to INA, Ramadan said he was carrying a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from President Saddam Husayn on the brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries, the need to bolster them in all areas, Arab issues, and ways to strengthen the Arab situation in the face of the challenges threatening the Arab nation.

He added he would discuss with the brothers in Bahrain ways to expand bilateral cooperation, which he described as excellent and developing. He pointed out the talks will also center on developments in the direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran as well as Iraq's firm adherence to its clear-cut position to reach a comprehensive and lasting peace. The first deputy prime minister is accompanied on the visit by the Foreign Ministry under secretary. He was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, member of the RCC in Iraq; a number of ministers; and the Bahraini ambassador in Baghdad.

'Izzat Ibrahim Returns to Baghdad 6 Dec

JN0612160588 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 6, INA—Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) returned to Baghdad today following an official visit to Saudi Arabia Kingdom and Kuwait [that] lasted four days. Mr. Ibrahim conveyed during his visit greetings of President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait. He also held talks with the officials in the two sisterly countries [that] dealt with the relations between Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and means of developing them. The accompanying delegation of the RCC vice-chairman consisted of the Iraqi foreign undersecretary and a number of officials.

Somali State Minister Departs Baghdad 6 Dec

JN0612202888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Dr Mohamed 'Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, left Baghdad this evening after a 3-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, the Somali minister said he is happy about the outcome of his visit. He said his talks with Iraqi officials dealt with ways to promote and develop bilateral relations in all fields. He was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Somali ambassador in Baghdad.

INA: Iran To Import 200,000 Israeli Masks

JN0312202788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Dec 88

[Text] Madrid, 3 Dec (INA)—An Israeli arms company has agreed to supply the Iranian regime with 200,000 protection masks [as received]. This has been disclosed to INA by sources close to arms dealing in Madrid. The sources said that a retired Israeli general named Harlev held contacts with Francisco Bino Khamnith, the owner of a Spanish company named Sico, to conclude that deal. The sources said that Gen Harlev, retired, owner of the Call Worldwide Consulting and Engineering Company, arrived in Madrid on 26 October to conclude this deal through contacts with a third party; namely, the Spanish company Sico.

The sources pointed out that the protection masks and the other appliances requested by Iran are of the type Cartas Modello 15A1 equipped with a drinking system and the type Cartas Modello 15A1/T equipped with a drinking system and voicemeter for use of telephone [all names of people, companies, and equipment as received].

These sources said the Spanish company asked Gen Harlev to obtain the Spanish police's approval for it to import to Spain these masks in accordance with the measures that must be followed to conclude that deal. The sources added that the Spanish police asked Gen Harlev in an official letter dated 31 October to send samples of these masks to it so it can examine them and issue an importation permit in this regard. The sources said that this thing materialized . Arms-marketing sources in Madrid indicated that this deal is one of many on which Iran is holding contacts with Israel and other parties. The sources affirmed that Iran concluded these deals [as received] with Israel after the former's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Greece on Extradition

TA0712113488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today leveled strong criticism at the Greek Government for its decision to expel Al-Zumar, a Palestinian, who is suspected of having planted a bomb at the Jewish synagogue in Rome in 1982. A 3-year-old Jewish boy was killed in that explosion. The announcement issued by the Foreign Ministry's spokesman in Jerusalem states that Al-Zumar's deportation to an Arab country in fact amounts to his release. This is an unprecedented move that should worry every country that is struggling against international terror, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman said.

USSR's Arbatov: Hijack Could Have 'Good Effects'

TA0712094988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Dec 88 p 12

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] New York—Georgiy Arbatov, one of the Kremlin's top foreign policy experts, yesterday praised Israel for returning the hijackers of the Soviet plane last weekend and predicted that there would be "good effects" on Soviet-Israel ties. Arbatov told THE JERUSALEM POST: "It was a very good thing, an accident that was probably useful. We appreciate what Israel did. I can assure you that the feelings (of the Soviet Union towards Israel) improved."

Asked whether the Soviet Union sees a way to move the peace process forward in the event of a Shamir government, Arbatov said: "It could be. Not many people thought it would be possible to do something with Mr. Reagan. But it turned out it was possible."

Pressed on whether the Soviet Union would change its position on the UN "Zionism is racism" resolution, Nikolay Shishlin of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party said: "I don't think this is a major obstacle to a settlement. I envy your memory in recalling this resolution." Shishlin said that the U.S. and USSR could further a Middle East settlement "if we don't act as rivals in the Middle East—but act as far as possible as responsible partners."

Tzomet Rejects Likud-led Narrow Coalition

TA0712055088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The right-wing Tzomet party has decided not to join a narrow-based government headed by the Likud. Tzomet believes such a coalition cannot meet the challenges facing the country, such as the uprising in the territories, the collapse of settlement, and the deteriorating education system.

Tzomet also says a narrow government would not support a change in the electoral system and public service to all who refuse military duty. The party is also proposing a bill to the Knesset calling for the direct election of the prime minister.

2 IDF Soldiers Arrested in 'Terrorist' Squad

TA0612184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Security forces and Haifa police uncovered a Fatah terrorist squad that operated in the Haifa area during the past year. The squad was made up of ten Bedouin residents of Ibtin, a resident of Umm al-Fahm, and two Bedouins from the (‘Arab al-Khis) tribe. Two of the squad members are IDF soldiers and two are women.

Our correspondent Yo‘av Aviv said the most serious attack that the squad is suspected of is hurling a grenade on Nordau Boulevard in Haifa 4 months ago in which 24 people were injured. They are also suspected of throwing a hand grenade in the center of Haifa over 1 year ago. The hand grenade did not ignite because of a mechanical problem.

The squad members are also suspected of hurling firebombs at buses near Sha‘ar Ha‘amaqim and at vehicles on the Shefar‘am-Nazareth highway, and arson of buses at the Egged garage in Qiryat Tiv‘on. The terrorists are charged with planning to kidnap male and female soldiers from bus stations and soldiers‘ hitchhiking stations, and murdering them. Five hand grenades stolen from the IDF were found in their possession.

93 'Terrorist' Groups Uncovered in Past 2 Months

TA0712060288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Following the uncovering of the Fatah terrorist squad that operated among Israeli Arabs in the north, the Shin Bet exposed 93 terrorist groups in Israel and the territories in the past 2 months, our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports.

Almost 90 attacks were cleared up and over 600 suspects were arrested. The defense minister sent a cable of congratulations to the head of the Shin Bet. During interrogation, many detainees confessed to attacks for which they had not been detained; their confessions are now being investigated.

The suspects from the territories belonged mainly to local organizations and Fatah; a few belonged to the DFLP, PFLP, Abu Nidal's organization, and the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 7 December adds: "Some 610 suspects were detained, of whom 17 come from Israel. Among the major attacks solved were the hurling of firebombs at a bus in Jericho in which four people were killed and five wounded; the murder of the mukhtar of Biddiya and the wounding of his two sons; the murder of people suspected of collaborating with Israel; and the throwing of a homemade grenade near Minister Ari‘el Sharon's home."]

Left-Wing Delegation Leaves for Prague Conference

TA0512130488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Dec 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] A delegation of left-wing activists and prominent Israeli Arabs left for Czechoslovakia last night to take part in a mock international peace conference. Leading

PLO officials Khalid al-Hasan and Abu Sharif are expected to attend the Prague conference, along with representatives from Russia, Egypt, England, France and other eastern bloc and western countries.

The Israeli delegates said they would not be infringing the law regarding meetings with representatives of terrorist organisations (PLO) because the conference was being held in an international framework.

It has been arranged and organised by the Czechoslovak Institute of International Relations on the lines of an international peace conference. The Israeli delegates were due to include Mordekhay Bar-On of the Citizens Rights Movement, Tawfiq Tubi and Tamar Gorjzinski of RAKAH, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, mayor of Shefar'am, and Rev. Shihada Shada, of Kafr Yasif, head of the Israeli Arab land protection committee.

Former Soviet Ambassador to Egypt Vladimir Vinogradov, American Prof. Edward Said, Murad Ghalib, former Egyptian ambassador to Russia, and former U.S. attorney-general Ramsay Clark are expected to be among the 50 delegates to the conference.

Attorney General Refuses Comment on Spy Exchange
TA0412114288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Dec 88

[Interview With Attorney General Yosef Harish by Jack Katzenell, place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Katzenell] Do you think there is any possibility, as you understand it, for the triple exchange of spies that we have been hearing about: Israel will release Kalmanovich, the United States will release the Pollards, and the Soviet Union will pressure Syria and Iran so that hostages in Lebanon are released?

[Harish] I have no idea about it, and if I had, I would not have spoken about it, not one word.

[Katzenell] From the legal point of view, is it feasible?

[Harish] No, no, I don't...I can't refer to the question.

Incidents, Strikes Reported in Territories

Leaflet Calls for Strikes
TA0612125388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] A new leaflet signed by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" condemned the U.S. decision to refuse a visa to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat as an "escalation of hatred toward Palestinian rights and people," and called for strikes this week to mark the first anniversary of the uprising. It urged Arab nations to reconsider their relations with the U.S. following its "decision to silence the Palestinian voice." Palestinians are to hold a general strike today in solidarity with prisoners held at the Ansar 3 detention camp at Qezi'ot.

A one-day hunger strike last Thursday at the Negev detention camp ended when detainees received promises that conditions would be improved, and after some concessions were made by the prison authorities, according to military sources and reports from the facility. But tension is still high at the camp, and soldiers have been forced to use teargas and water cannons to quell unrest in recent days, according to the reports from Qezi'ot. [passage omitted]

In Gaza's Falastin Square, Palestinians reportedly hurled a petrol bomb at an IDF jeep but missed. The Gaza branch of the Unified Leadership of the Uprising issued a new leaflet calling for an escalation of the confrontation with the IDF, Jewish residents of the areas, and Arabs cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

It urged a strengthening of domestic industry and a boycott of Israeli-made goods for which there are Palestinian alternatives. Banned products found next month will be destroyed, confiscated or distributed gratis, the Unified Leadership said.

The leaflet called strikes on December 8 and 9 to mark the first anniversary of the intifada [uprising], and, taking a leaf from Israel's Remembrance Day, ordered motorists and pedestrians to stand silently for five minutes on December 10 to "honour the martyrs."

[In a report by Roni Shaqed on page four, YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 6 December adds: "A leaflet signed by the Palestine National Salvation Front—made up of Abu Musa's men and members of the revolutionary faction of the Palestine Communist Party—was also distributed yesterday. The leaflet calls for the rejection of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, attacks the PNC decisions, and calls on the PLO not to form a government in exile and not to recognize Israel."]

In the West Bank, soldiers reportedly fired plastic and rubber bullets to break up a Ramallah march by about 100 supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The marchers held up pictures of PFLP chief George Habash and chanted, "Power to the Popular Front."

After dispersing the march, soldiers reportedly chased groups of stone-throwing youths who set up barricades: Local drivers were ordered to park vehicles across side streets, apparently to block traffic into areas of tension. Palestinians reported several incidents in recent days in which soldiers have commandeered Arab owned cars to facilitate easy access to villages and during raids.

Several persons were wounded by beatings and rubber bullets in the Nabulus area, and stonethrowing incidents were reported in Bethlehem. Curfews remained in force in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp, which has been under curfew for more than two weeks; in Qalqilyah (more than a week under curfew); and in Kafr Malik near Ramallah. Kfar Ni'mah was also under curfew, following clashes during an IDF raid there Sunday.

A raid and clashes were reported yesterday at Abwayn near Ramallah, and a tax raid in Jericho, after which merchants shuttered their shops. A passenger on an Egged number 25 bus to Neve Ya'aqov in northern Jerusalem was slightly injured yesterday afternoon when stone-throwers smashed a window.

Schools Open Despite Strike

TA0612130788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Despite the full commercial strike in the territories today, most West Bank students showed up for school. Sources in the Civil Administration have said that over 90 percent of the students and all the teachers were at school. In view of the satisfactory turnout, the administration is considering reopening West Bank junior high schools, in accordance with a plan outlining the reopening of schools by stages.

A Jewish bus passenger was injured this morning when a stone was hurled near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. He was hurt in the face and received medical treatment at Hadassah 'Ayn Kerem Hospital. His injury is described as slight.

5 Wounded in Clashes 6 Dec

TA0612192988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] At least five Arabs, including a 14-year-old boy, were wounded by gunfire during clashes with the Army in the territories today. Arab sources reported a larger than normal number of stone-throwing incidents, and one Israeli was injured when a stone hit the bus he was travelling in near Bethlehem. Ari'el O'Sullivan reports:

A 14-year-old boy from the village of Shuwaykah near Tulkarm remains in critical condition this evening after he was shot in the right side of the head. The boy was shot during a clash with IDF troops this morning, and was treated at a local hospital. He was transferred to Al-Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem where doctors are operating on him. He is still unconscious.

In Gaza, at least four Arabs were wounded by live bullets in clashes with IDF soldiers. The Army said two were wounded in Dayr al-Balah, and one in Khan Yunus. The Army stopped the curfew on Al-Nusayrat, Jabalyah, and the Al-Shati' refugee camps. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited the Gaza Strip today, and met with regular and reserve soldiers. [passage omitted]

This morning the curfews on the town of Qalqilyah and Kefar Malik were lifted, but curfews on Al-Nuway'imah, Al-Am'ari, and Shuwaykah continue.

2 Firebombs Thrown at Bus

TA0712053988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown last night at an Egged bus at the entrance to Bethlehem. There were no injuries or damage. Security forces closed the area and searched for the attackers.

'Large' Explosive Device Dismantled in Beersheba

TA0712061688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] A large explosive device was discovered this morning at a hitchhiking station at the entrance to Beersheba. Police experts dismantled the device without causing any damage, our correspondent Tzvi Aloush reports. The regional police commander called on the inhabitants to be aware at all times and report any suspicious objects.

Islamic Jihad Member Receives Stiffer Sentence

TA0612134088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 88 p 20

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] The military court of appeals yesterday stiffened the sentence of 25-year-old 'Abd Mahmud Khalifa, a resident of East Jerusalem who was convicted of perpetrating a string of serious crimes as a member of an Islamic Jihad squad. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, of which 3 years are to be a suspended sentence. [passage omitted]

In August the military court in Lod sentenced Khalifa to 7 years in prison of which 2 years were to be a suspended sentence. The military prosecution appealed the sentence and, as reported, the military court of appeals, presided over by Colonel Avigdor Ravid, yesterday accepted the prosecution's claim and decided that the defendant's actions warrant a much heavier sentence than that originally imposed.

New Aircraft Refueling Plane Unveiled

TA0612124888 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 6 Dec 88 p 10

[Report by Marcus Sheff]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv—The first mid-air aircraft that can refuel up to three air force and navy planes simultaneously was unveiled yesterday by Israel Aircraft Industries' [IAI] Bedek Aviation subsidiary. The IAI system, which took 15 months to develop, is likely to be of great interest to the armed forces of the United States, France and other European countries that operate mixed probe and boom systems, such as the F-16 and the A-4 fighter planes. Senior U.S. officers have already seen the plane.

Until now, air force and navy planes, which have different methods of mid-air refueling, were serviced separately. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 December in a page A4 report by Dan Arkin adds: "The new refueling plane, which is a Boeing-707 passenger plane converted into an air tanker, is capable of refueling 10 jet fighters within a radius of 1,000 nautical miles, with each refueling taking between 3 to 5 minutes only. The plane has two refueling inlets in the wings and one in its underbelly. The Israeli and U.S. Air Forces are interested in the new refueling plane."]

Prince Hasan, Al-Rifa'i Return From Iraq

JN0612194588 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, returned to Amman this evening following a brief working visit to the Republic of Iraq during which he met with His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and conveyed to his excellency a message from His Majesty King Husayn dealing with bilateral cooperation, the overall Arab situation, and joint Arab action.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks in Moscow

JN0612184288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian economic delegation left Amman for Moscow today on a visit of several days to the Soviet Union.

The delegation will hold talks on promoting economic relations and increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Muhammad al-Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and head of the delegation, said the talks will deal with securing an equitable agreement between the two countries to increase Jordan's exports to the Soviet Union and adjust the trade balance, which is always in favor of the Soviet Union.

He added the visit follows the setting up of the joint Jordanian-Soviet committee to promote economic relations and scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Syrian Minister Arrives for Economic Meetings

JN0612200088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Amman—The ministers of economy, trade, and finance of the members of the Arab Economic Unity Council began to arrive in Amman to lead their countries' delegations to the council's 50th session, which begins tomorrow.

In its 2-day meeting, the council will discuss the secretary general's economic report, the economic situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the Israeli occupation authorities' attempts to empty the occupied Arab territories of people and curtail economic activity in them. The council will also disccuss the general secretariat's budget for 1989.

Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him arrived via the Al-Ramtha border post to take part in the meetings.

He was received at the Al-Ramtha border post by the Al-Ramtha provincial governor, the border post director, the director of the police station in the town, the director of the Al-Ramtha customs house, and representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Arab Economic Unity Council.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard Official in Beirut
NC0712124688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Mohammad Ardabili, an Iranian official in the Revolutionary Guards, is holding meetings with Hizballah leaders in West Beirut and the southern suburb. He will later visit the Al-Biqa' to hold talks with Hizballah officials before returning to Tehran to convey the results.

Iran's Besharati Departs Following Visit
LD0612185288 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati flew back home Tuesday after a three-day visit to Damascus and Beirut.

Besharati conferred with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus and with Lebanon's Premier Salim al-Huss and parliament speaker Husayn al-Husayni in Beirut.

At the meetings, talks were held on various issues of the region, Lebanon's current situation as well as recent clashes between Amal and Hizballah.

Besharati said at a news conference in Beirut Monday that a commission comprising Amal and Hizballah and supervised by Iran and Syria would be formed to end the disputes between the two Muslim groups.

Office Denies Fadlallah To End 'Arafat Contacts
NC0712065688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] The media office of Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denied that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati had conveyed to Fadlallah a Syrian message advising him to end his contacts with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Hizballah 'Source': Car Bomb Network Uncovered
NC0712072788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] A security source in Hizballah has disclosed that, in continuation of investigations into the booby-trapped car explosion along the Al-Sifri-Ba'labakk Road, which was targeted against four Hizballah leaders, and upon available leads and evidence, we have managed to uncover the network responsible for this criminal attempt. The network belongs to a local group notorious for its tyranny and hypocrisy. It also has schemes to carry out other assassinations.

The source added: After we complete investigations into certain details, we will publicize everything connected with this so that our people may become aware of those who are behind sedition and partition of the ranks and those who tamper with the security of our community to serve the schemes of the Zionists and their partitionist agents.

Al-Huss Denies Pressure Put on Bank of Lebanon
NC0612123788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Asked about the truth of rumors being spread by some quarters about pressure on Dr Edmond Na'im, governor of the Bank of Lebanon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: The Bank of Lebanon has not been subjected to any form of pressure. Everything that is being said to this effect is either a lie or an attempt to throw dust in the eyes. We regard the Bank of Lebanon as constituting a red line. We have not permitted nor will we permit any authority or side to transcend or violate this line.

We are most acutely aware of the national value which the Bank of Lebanon represents. We regard the Bank as the cornerstone of the economy and one of the basic bulwarks of Lebanon's unity. We also respect the policy of the Bank of Lebanon and appreciate the Bank governor's stand in confronting attempts by any side to influence it.

'Big' Explosion in Al-Hamra' Area in W. Beirut
NC0612202888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2020 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] We have just received this new report from the editor's desk: Approximately 5 minutes ago, a big explosion occurred in the Al-Hamra' area in West Beirut. According to initial reports, the explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car that was parked behind the Bank of Lebanon. The Syrian forces have sealed off the scene and there are as yet no details about casualties.

RPG Shell Cause of Explosion
NC0612212488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] It has become apparent that the explosion that rocked the Al-Hamra' area around 2210 today was caused by an RPG shell that was fired at the Central Bank building. The rocket hit the fourth floor. The Syrian forces cordoned off the area, thus making it difficult to assess the extent of the losses.

Junblatt Attacks Patriarch Sfayr, Government
NC0612142788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt at a public rally in Ra's al-Matn on 6 December commemorating the 71st birthday anniversary of Kamal Junblatt—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The struggle in Lebanon is much bigger than an initiative by a patriarch who is overweighed with gold crosses and who protects the

privileges of a church which has grown old and senile and which practices racial discrimination through the Al-Kaslik [Maronite monastery]. We do not attach great importance to this initiative. However, we will deal with it in a flexible way so that it will not be said that we rejected it and thus were the cause of the country's partition.

We have no illusions that this initiative will benefit in a tangible way the poorer classes in the mountain, the Iqlim, the southern suburbs, the South, and the north, as well as the patriotic Christian refugees who have left the isolationist ghetto and those who have remained there as a result of the crusaders' hatred of them and us.

His beatitude should have distributed the church property, estimated at one-third of the agricultural area in Lebanon, to the poor Christians and patriots in Lebanon. [applause]

Finally, it seems that some officials in West Beirut—some statues and senile people—have not yet understood that the issue is much bigger than the occasional closure of a crossing point or the entry into the game of a settlement. We do not attach importance to the closure of the port crossing. Let the crossing remain closed. We can survive through the comprehensive national administration and through the government which we insist on expanding and on purifying of nonnational elements. We insist on a comprehensive national administration and a comprehensive national government. We have ports; we have resources. We have great resources that can serve the people from Tripoli to Tyre, including Al-Jiyah, Khaldah, and Al-Awza'i. We can attain self-sufficiency and enter into the big national confrontation that has been imposed on us.

Therefore—and this is the central point—I warn again. We have the money. We control the Central Bank. We will not accept a situation in which this bank serves the Lebanese Army in Al-Yarzah. [applause] We warn Edmund Na'im [Central Bank Governor] and his associates not to transfer funds to the Al-Yarzah army to enable it to kill the poor and patriots. If they have not comprehended this message thus far, then this warning is very clear. Otherwise, we will demand the replacement of Edmund Na'im and full national control over the national money in the Central Bank. [applause] [passage omitted]

'Awn Makes Colonel Harruq Interior Minister

NC0512132588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] If the eastern side's closure of the crossings between the two sectors of Beirut was premeditated by 'Awn's apparatus and the fait accompli forces that support him, this measure has in reality been the first link in a chain of measures to dismember the homeland. These measures have been followed by a series of partitionist measures represented by wresting power from the most senior commanders of the internal security forces. This usurpation culminated today by General 'Awn's appointment of Colonel George Harruq, commander of military area of Jabal Lubnan, as acting interior minister.

Cabinet Statement on Closure of Crossing Point

NC0612134488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Cabinet statement read by Joseph Juraysati, director general of the President's Office, on 6 December]

[Text] The cabinet held its first weekly meeting in B'abda Palace, studying topics on the agenda and making the appropriate decisions. Regarding the Museum-al-Barbir crossing point, the cabinet stressed that the Army Command ordered its closure after officers and military men who cross it to the eastern area to report for duty, as well as certain personalities, senior officials, and citizens, were subjected to harassments ranging from threats and insults to actions aimed at preventing them from traversing the crossing point.

In addition, withholding the transfer and payment of funds, suspending transactions at the Central Bank of Lebanon, stalling and a lack of response by the parties concerned, and overstepping legal jurisdictions, have endangered the situation to the point that the state's ability to continue to provide urgent necessary services to the citizens and to ensure the continued functioning of certain public establishments and departments is threatened.

Therefore, the cabinet has decided to instruct the Army Command to continue to handle the issue in the same way—closing the crossing point—before resorting to other measures that might be deemed necessary.

Khaddam, Iran's Besharati Discuss Ties, Lebanon

LD0612172788 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus, Dec. 6 IRNA—The trend of mutual ties as well as the current developments in Lebanon were discussed between Iran's first deputy foreign minister and Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today.

'Ali Mohammad Besharati who came here last night from Beirut was hopeful that the Amal-Hezbollah rift would be resolved soon.

During his three-day shuttle between Damascus and Beirut, the Iranian official has also conferred with President Hafiz al-Asad, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss, parliamentary speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Amal chief Nabih Birri.

Afghan Official Delivers Message to President

LD0612204188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The message of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA, addressed to Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Ba'th Socialist Party of the Arab Republic of Syria and president of the Arab Republic of Syria, has recently been delivered to his excellency by Najmuddin Kawiani, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who is paying a friendly and official visit to the country as head of a PDPA delegation. The message was warmly received.

Najmuddin Kawiani met with Hafiz al-Asad at his office and briefed him on the political-military situation in the Republic of Afghanistan and the process of implementing the national reconciliation policy. He also told the president about the enforcement of the Geneva accords and recent efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan on the restoration of peace.

During the meeting His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria, asserted the support of Syria for the policies of the PDPA and the Republic of Afghanistan, and also the expansion of interparty and intergovernmental relations. The ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Afghanistan in Syria was also present at the meeting.

Najmuddin Kawaini also conducted separate meetings with members of the Syrian state and party leadership.

During the meetings the members of the Syrian party and state leadership expressed their solidarity with the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA.

The delegation renewed the existing cooperation protocol between the PDPA and the Ba'th Socialist Party of Syria and signed it. The visit by the PDPA delegation was widely covered by Syrian mass media.

Afghan Delegation Departs

JN0612134888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Damascus—The Afghan-Syrian Arab Friendship Society delegation headed by Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of foreign relations of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, left Damascus this morning.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Ahmad Dirgham, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and chairman of the Syrian Arab-Afghan friendship society. A number of members of the society's executive bureau also saw him off.

At the end of the friendly delegation's visit to Syria, a cooperation pact was signed by the Ba'th Party and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan for 1989 and 1990.

'Urgent Appeal' by 'Uprising' Leadership Noted

JN0612204588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] In a call it issued today [the Unified National Leadership of] the Uprising addressed an urgent appeal to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and U.S. President-elect George Bush asking them to assume their historic responsibilities and to positively stand on the side of the Palestinian people's national rights.

TISHRIN Cited on EEC 'Failure' To Take Stand

JN0412075188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Dec 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries today, the newspaper TISHRIN tackles the results of the meetings of the EEC and its failure to develop its stand toward the Middle East conflict.

TISHRIN adds: Western Europe cannot continue to play a marginal role in the region's issues or utilize the tensions and conflicts that spurt forth here and there to serve narrow and selfish interests, as the continuation of tension and the occurrence of more severe explosions will reflect negatively on it with possibly greater consequences than those considered in its calculations.

However, we must at the same time draw attention to many European states whose perspective regarding the nature of the regional conflict has become more comprehensive and clear-cut. This development in the stance of these states constitutes a step toward the crystallization of a positive European stand.

The Arabs,if they agree on a unified strategy of action, can bring about a substantial change in the stands of the Western European states and in the equation of the Arab-Zionist conflict in a manner that serves their just causes.

The newspaper affirms that the statement issued by the EEC does not represent any addition to its declared stand, and this provides evidence of the importance of a unified Arab stance in dealing with others in the international arena. The unity of this stand will help bring about many positive results that will help serve our pan-Arab causes.

Damascus Radio Criticizes Policy of 'Concessions'
JN2911152388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has become clear to everyone that the policy of offering concessions has not yielded any fruits and that the enemies of the nation are exploiting this phenomenon to blackmail the Arabs and demand more concessions. It is also clear to everybody that the Arabs have no other way than reviving their solidarity on firm militant bases in the face of the Zionist enemy, which every day shows more hostility and more indifference to the international principles and charters and defies the will of humanity.

Facts affirm that the Zionist enemy is continuing its criminal schemes and that it has not abandoned its expansionist goal in devouring the occupied Arab territories, planting them with settlements, and establishing greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. Illusions spread by some sides about the existence of a peaceful trend in the enemy's society have been shattered.

The recent Israeli elections have proved that the Zionists are completely in agreement on expanding, increasing the settlements, Judaizing the occupied Arab territories, and rejecting even the simplest rights of the Palestinian Arab people. They also are threatening to commit an aggression if their schemes are endangered. Facts also have proved that the U.S. Administration is continuing to extend support for the Zionist enemy even if the latter's policy contradicts the will of the international community, the resolutions of the United Nations, and the efforts of the peoples and governments which love peace, equality, and justice.

Actually, the new facts which have emerged from the Israel elections did not surprise those who follow up the details of the situation and who realize the nature of the Zionist danger and Israel's ambitions in the region. Syria has repeatedly drawn the attention of the Arab brothers to the need to rise to the level of the challenges and confront the Zionist invasion by achieving a strategic parity that can deter the enemy from carrying out its plans and also deter its protectors from extending support and encouragement to it.

If the Arabs had adhered to the policy of the October liberation war, the situation would have been a different one and Israel would have been placed in a very narrow corner. But panting after the fever of settlement has enabled the enemies to penetrate the front and open loopholes that undermined the effective solidarity achieved as a result of the October liberation war.

The picture is now very clear. Concessions have not achieved anything for the nation, but resulted in more statelets and disasters. Although the Arabs have great human and material energies, the delay in using these energies and capability in favor of the Arab cause harms the Arab cause and increases the enemy's power and its aggressive actions. The enemy views the adoption of peaceful solutions by some sides as weakness.

It is time to come out of this circle, and there is no way other than reviving the militant Arab solidarity to confront Zionism and Israel and consider those who support the Arab rights as friends and those who are against them as enemies. This will support the Arab confrontation states, foremost of which is Syria, as well as the efforts to achieve a strategic parity. Honest efforts should also be exerted to unify the Palestinian arena on the basis of firm struggle in order to enable the brave uprising to achieve more successes in its confrontation of the Israeli occupation.

The revival of the militant Arab solidarity to confront the enemy and its protectors, adhere to the Arab rights and land, and reject gratuitous concessions has become a popular Arab demand and a criterion of commitment to the nation's causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

Afghanistan

Soviet-Mujahidin Talks To Continue in Islamabad

LD0612200188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] As agreed by esteemed President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan, Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan, met with Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of the Afghan opposition, in Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

The Soviet side utilized the meetings and talks to give more impetus toward solving the Afghanistan issue, in particular ending the war, restoring peace, and creating a broad-based government in the country.

During the talks the Soviet delegation raised the issue of the repatriation of Soviet soldiers, which was taken up by the opposition. [as heard] Both sides agreed to continue the talks in Islamabad, the date of which will be determined later.

During his stay in the Saudi Arabia, Vorontsov met Saudi King Fahd. During their meeting Vorontsov expressed gratitude to the Saudi Government for its constructive peace initiatives, which were reflected in the convocation and organization of the Al-Ta'if meeting.

Importance of Talks Viewed

LD0612233788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Commentary by BAKHTAR political commentator—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The meeting between Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, and Burhanuddin Rabbani, a representative of the armed opposition based in Peshawar, which took place in Saudi Arabia has been analyzed and commented on by most mass media around the world.

What stands out among all the commentary and analyses is the two parties' satisfaction with the talks and their optimism about the opening of a channel of communications for dialouge, further understanding, and a continuation of the talks.

This issue is important for our people because, in contrast to previous times, the language of war is being replaced by the language of dialogue, consultation, and understanding. This is the most rational way to attain peaceful objectives. The 10 bloody years of war, which left behind thousands of dead or maimed and hundreds of millions of afghanis in losses, obviously reflects the consequences of war and animosity. During this fratricidal war, our people have lost both their tangible and intangible wealth. The 10 years of war have taught us that armed confrontation and animosity cannot achieve any objective; on the contrary, they increase pain and calamities.

Objectively perceiving that this unfortunate situation in the country will only lead to destruction, the Republic of Afghanistan has chosen the path of national reconciliation as the only way to save the people and homeland from war and fratricide. It will decisively continue its struggle on this path.

The national reconciliation policy has made formidable gains. The government embarked on practical measures to accomplish its objectives and asked all sections of the Afghan society to cooperate in the national reconciliation process.

Despite the fact that the opposition forces do not agree with the national reconciliation policy and the war and bloodshed continue, the government still has not given up the lofty objectives of the policy. [passage omitted]

With political vision, the Republic of Afghanistan not only supports the Al-Ta'if talks in Saudi Arabia but regards them as another step toward restoring peace in the Republic of Afghanistan and achieving national (?understanding).

Mujahidin Leader Condemns Talks With USSR

LD0612200788 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 6, IRNA—A leading Afghan mujahidin leader has lashed out at the 7-party Peshawar-based mujahidin for their ongoing talks with Moscow in Saudi Arabia, and also its wisdom to hold general elections in liberated areas.

Ayatollah Asef Mohseni questioned the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin's (IUAM) unilateral decision to hold elections and said it was practically impossible to do so for the next three months in view of the harsh winter.

"Secondly, this election would have no legitimacy because areas under the control of different Mujahidin groups were not clearly defined", Ayatollah Mohseni told IRNA here Monday.

"The seven-party alliance in Peshawar has not consulted the mujahidin leaders and parties based in Iran, where over two million Afghans have sought refuge," he added.

The chief of the Harkat-e Eslami recalling IUAM's earlier decision to form a coalition interim government in Afghanistan according to the Geneva Accord, said now these parties are contradicting their previous decision by calling for elections.

He said his party had not accepted Loya Jerga and suggested that mujahidin parties based in Peshawar, Pakistan, as well as Iran should unitedly come forward and form their own government.

Meanwhile, Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, chief of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami-e Afghanistan, in Peshawar Monday severely condemned the ongoing negotiations between USSR and IUAM leaders in Saudi Arabia.

He said as the success of mujahidin in Afghanistan was in sight, they were busy in taking the fruits of it. He said these leaders had no acceptance among the people of Afghanistan.

Mawlawi Nasrullah said the parties who were not in IUAM alliance had also an effective role in Afghanistan before as well as during the ongoing war.

Nasrullah Mansur claimed that the Soviet Union after defeats in the warfronts, was seeking political victory in Afghanistan. He vowed that mujahidin will not sit for negotiation until the single one Russians was in their land. [sentence as received]

U.S., Arab Advisers, 'Extremists' 'Crushed'

LD0612194088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman, BAKHTAR's military correspondent reports that the Armed Forces have carried out mopping-up operations in the past 24 hours in the Bagrami, Sarowbi, Shakar Darreh, and (Koh-i-Safi) Districts and in Ghazni and Badakhshan Provinces.

The Armed Forces have killed a number of extremists—including two foreign advisers—and injured a number of others. Three weapons and ammunition depots, two DShK's, and four enemy hideouts were destroyed, and a number of various weapons and ammunition were seized by the Armed Forces.

As a result of mopping-up operations in the vicinity of Gardeyz and Khowst and (Satakadow) region, a number of extremists—including a U.S. and an Arab adviser—were crushed and a number of others were injured. Two weapon and ammunition depots, one artillery piece, one rocket launcher, one [word indistinct], and one ZK-1 were destroyed.

As a result of a mopping-up operation near Konduz, a number of extremists were killed and 3 heavy machine guns, 20 light machine guns, 2 rocket launchers, 1 recoilless gun, and 1 vehicle were seized.

As a result of blows by the Armed Forces on major extremist bases in Herat Province, a number of extremists were crushed and their weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of a combat operation by the Armed Forces carried out recently with the cooperation of the people, the area around Qalat, capital of Zabol Province, was completely cleared of extremists. The report adds that a number of the inhabitants who under extremist pressure had left their homes have now returned and resumed their peaceful life.

'Successful' Operations in Nangarhar Province

LD0612175388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] The Armed Forces units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province are in a state of high combat readiness and are carrying out successful operations with the help of the people. The operations are aimed at restoring peace and security in this province and foiling the satanic conspiracies of the warmongering extremist elements.

A spokesman from the operational unit of the General Staff stationed in Nangarhar Province, reported to the BAKHTAR military section that, in response to repeated demands by the people and the national reconcilliation commission of Nangarhar Province, the security forces have recently carried out mopping-up operations to clear the city of Jalalabad and its surroundings of the subversive elements.

As a result of this operation a number of saboteurs were arrested and handed over to the organs in charge of safeguarding the law. During this operation 112 weapons including light machine-guns, 2 boxes of hand grenades, a quantity of explosives, and thousands rounds of assorted amunition, were seized.

The report adds that as a result of yesterday's operation by the Armed Forces in the surroundings of Shiveh and (Rodat) Districts of Nangarhar Province, 25 warmongering extremists were crushed and 17 were injured.

During this operation two rocket missiles, a mortar, and a DSHK were also destroyed.

AFP: Mutiny 'Foiled' at Jalalabad Garrison

BK0612142188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 6 (AFP)—Afghan Government troops have foiled an attempt by mutinous soldiers to take over the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad, Western diplomats said Tuesday quoting Soviet sources.

Diplomats here said the attempt was made by soldiers in collaboration with mujahidin rebels on November 21, simultaneously with an attempt by other troops to take over the southern city of Qandahar.

The diplomats said at least two officers and 20 other soldiers defected to the mujahidin following the mutiny.

The mutiny in Qandahar was organised by officers from the Afghan secret service, KHAD, who were in the city initially to try to convince rebels to come over to the government side but later changed sides, diplomats explained.

"Apparently the mujahidin were more successful in pursuading the Khad officials to work for the resistance," a diplomatic source said.

About 400 soldiers and militia were involved in the Qandahar mutiny together with mujahidin guerrilas wearing Afghan army uniforms. Diplomats here said the plot was apparently discovered before it could be put into effect.

The diplomats said further details of the mutiny in Jalalabad were not available. The city has been facing shortages because the rebels, aided by Shinwari tribesmen, controlled the vital trade road between the city and the Towr Kham on the Pakistani border.

Heavy fighting was also reported near the Ghani Khel garrison, sources said.

Diplomats here believe that the presence earlier this week of heavily armoured Soviet convoys along the Jalalabad-Kabul road was evidence that reinforcements had been needed to keep the vital route open.

Diplomats said several government officials had recently arrived in the area to try and buy the support of the Shinwari tribesmen and re-open the roads, which the rebels have controlled since November.

A local press report Saturday said an American advisor had been killed along with several mujahidin in Nangarhar, while Kabul television reported Sunday that another American had been captured in Paktia Province.

No independent evidence was provided to support the claims, diplomats said here.

Rebels Mount Operations Against Armed Forces

BK0612120588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin are reported to have conducted rocket attacks on security posts around (Dilsuch) garrison in Helmand Province, killing 26 Kabul regime troops and destroying three posts. Two armored personnel carriers and two military vehicles were also (?damaged) during the attack.

Mujahidin in different operations near Dilaram garrison in Farah Province have killed at least 30 Kabul troops and destroyed two posts, one armored personnel carrier, two vehicles, and one radar. Two tanks were also damaged during these operations.

Mujahidin are also reported to have carried out successful operations in Baghlan, Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces, inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the Kabul regime troops.

Protest Note No 140 Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD0712070788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec 6, BAKHTAR—The liaison office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that the 140th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva Accords was submitted here today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP).

The notice underlined 15 instances of violations by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva Accords especially the despatch of caravans of weapons from the territory of Pakistan to the extremist groups. The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and secretary general's representative.

Najibullah Meets With Democratic Youth

LD0612201988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 Gmt 6 Dec 88

[Text] Today at the Presidency Esteemed President Najibullah of Afghanistan met with Kabul city and provincial DYOA members. Esteemed Najibullah gave detailed information on the political-military situation in the country and the region, and then answered questions from some DYOA members.

On behalf of the youth, Farid Ahmad Muzdak, first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, assured the president that the country's young generation will vigorously fulfill their duties in the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

Iran

Rafsanjani Escapes Assassination Attempt 5 Dec

NC0712125288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] According to reports which are shrouded in secrecy in Tehran, Iranian Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was subjected to an assassination attempt in front of his residence in the Iranian capital last Monday [5 December]. The reports add that a rocket was fired at Rafsanjani's home, killing two of his companions and wounding seven others.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks on Human Rights

NC0712083188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] We now present the special news report of the hour on the remarks by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Islamic Majles, to our correspondent with regard to the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration.

Regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on human rights, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: The defense of human rights is a very sacred one. It is obvious that anyone with a human conscience should defend the rights of human beings. This also is the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, the concept currently prevailing in the world is incorrect. The world powers have adopted an incorrect approach; they have decided to further their own objectives under the cover of all sacred issues, values, and concepts which are revered by the people of the world.

This is harmful in two ways: First, it desecrates the connotations of these concepts and their interpretations among the (?masses) of the people. Second, these concepts and topics, such as democracy, human rights, and the fight against terrorism are misinterpreted as regards their validity. The validity of these concepts should be upheld. If nations defend them, all people will benefit.

However, the colonialist powers interpret these concepts according to their own wishes, and they act accordingly. Such actions are to the benefit of these powers and to the detriment of the people. For example, if they see that a revolution has been successful, they attempt to discredit it by raising some points which indicate that human rights are being jeopardized. They raise a hue and cry. In this way the colonialist powers attempt to undermine the revolution.

Nicaragua and the way in which the Americans are confronting the situation there is an example of this. A similar example is our Iran. Their attitude is contradictory. For example, if they wish to support the Iranian or Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, they ultimately support terrorists. Those who commit murder, whether in Iran, Nicaragua, or in some Muslim countries, are given the backing of the colonialist powers in the name of defending human rights. Thus, they contradict themselves.

Take democracy for example. They have agents in the Third World. There can be democracy in some countries but it may not feasible in others [2-second break in transmission]. They forge strong ties. In places where the peoples' opinions count, but do not conform to the interests of the colonialist powers, despite these powers' support of democracy according to their acclaimed principles, they propound some other reasons to oppose democracy. If they truly desire the defense of human rights, they should [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commented on the imperialist-Zionist propaganda against Islamic Iran and said:

[Begin recording] [Passage indistinct] And they should be penalized for complicity in committing aggression against Iranian soil. The clamor they have raised at present is the result of their inability to (?legitimize) an act of aggression. They have been crushed and are, therefore, trying to disseminate propaganda under some other guise. If human rights are to be (?truly) defended, what about the people of Palestine, who are being brutally flogged in the streets everyday and are living in extreme poverty and misfortune. No one is doing anything for them.

The Israelis have done much worse (?to them). The colonialist powers should not be content with merely reporting on this matter. Israel is their own agent. If they withdraw their support from Israel, that country cannot do these things. Mere verbal warnings are not enough. Israel should be subjected to economic pressure, which these countries are (?able to) exert.

Meanwhile, in Lebanon, a group is threatened and blood is shed every day [words indistinct]. (?Most of the) people of Lebanon are Muslims. How is it that in a democracy like the United States, the peoples' rights are respected, while in Lebanon, the rights of the majority of the people do not count. Why should the previous traditions of the Phalangists' government be (?taken into consideration).

Some parts of Lebanese soil are currently occupied by Israel. The people of Lebanon are brutally arrested and imprisoned in Israel. People of one country being imprisoned in another! Where in the world do you see such a very disgraceful phenomenon. [Words indistinct] we see in other places but the propaganda does not highlight these reprehensible phenomena. However, where they wish to create pressure, they heighten the propaganda.

All in all, I wish to mention one point: Nations should have some acumen, some analytical ability and should not allow this propaganda to influence them. When people, like us, are aware of issues and analyze such incidents, they will not allow whatever is said to (?affect them).

From the outset of the revolution, we closed our ears against the waves of sedition; our people remained vigilant and alert, so whatever they said was unsuccessful. The people maintained their loyalty to the revolution and their path, as you have seen. People are reconciling themselves to the hardships, whether shortages stemming from the war, counterrevolutionaries, or economic (?problems). They (?analyze) these themselves. As a result, the effect of such propaganda is minimal in Iran, even though it would be more effective in other countries, where they have (?managed to) alienate people from their revolution and their leaders, and have done what they wanted. [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Construction Jihad
LD0612152288 Tehran IRNA in English
1514 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The war cannot be considered as over yet, said the Majles speaker hoping the Ba'thists would not again involve Iran in a war through

their continuing mischiefs. "However, the possibility of resumption of the war should not be ignored," warned the acting Armed Forces commander in chief today.

Addressing a nationwide seminar of Construction Jihad officials Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "We cannot think of any other project for Construction Jihad apart from the war, the more so considering the likelihood of its resumption."

One of the most important tasks is the building of fortifications and setting up of other defence barriers along the borders, said the speaker calling on the Construction Jihad as a source of honor for the Islamic Revolution.

KEYHAN on Hashemi-Rafsanjani News Conference
NC0612135688 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
30 Nov 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There is a possibility that the Islamic Republic of Iran will consider loans from foreign banks. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the news conference, in response to the sole question put to him by a local correspondent from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, with regard to the FRG foreign minister's visit to Iran and the Western countries' stance on Resolution No 598: We expect all those who raised the slogan of peace during the war to abide by their slogans and to strive for the sincere and correct implementation of Resolution No 598.

He added: There is a positive trend which has manifested itself in the form of visits by political personalities from Western countries, especially the visit by the FRG foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. We interpret this trend as the success of our expanding ties. The talks have proceeded remarkably well to date. [passage omitted]

Economic Commission With USSR Opens Talks
LD0512174788 Tehran IRNA in English
1735 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The 11th Irano-USSR Joint Economic Commission opened in Moscow Monday, attended by Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani and Soviet chairman of the commission Nikolay Konarev.

Addressing the session, Konarev termed cooperation between Tehran and Moscow as a sign of "historical friendship" and called for further expansion of ties.

"The Soviet Union is ready to expand economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic on the basis of mutual respect, reciprocity and peaceful co-existence", he added.

Iravani replied that bilateral relations have greatly expanded on the basis of mutual interest and respect for each other's sovereignty. Several major industrial projects have been executed in Iran, thanks to such cooperation, he added.

Referring to postwar reconstruction projects, he thought grounds were desirable for mutual cooperation in building projects especially production of construction materials.

"The agreement in principle on resumption of natural gas exports to the Soviet Union should boost bilateral trade exchanges", said Iravani.

The two countries' volume of trade exchanges, currently stands between 200 to 300 million dollars a year, added the Iranian minister who arrived here yesterday at the head of top level delegation.

Aqazadeh on Possible Gas Exports to USSR
LD0612174688 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The oil minister announced that equipment necessary for piping gas to households, administrative, and commercial units has arrived, and that applicants for such equipment may, as of next month, buy it at official prices from the Ministry of Commerce.

The National Iranian Gas Company recently announced that citizens should refrain from having gas pipes installed inside their own houses or buildings. The advisory was to be effective until further notice. We met Mr Aqazadeh and asked him to explain this project and the possibility of exporting gas to the Soviet Union.

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am happy that we have fulfilled the promise we made last year to import the equipment necessary for domestic gas connection, despite the special conditions prevailing in the country. Efforts by the Ministry of Commerce and [word indistinct] were fruitful for importing the equipment with the alloted $30 million. There is enough equipment for 50,000 subscribers. [passage omitted]

As to your second question about exporting gas to the USSR, I can say that such exports have been debated for quite a long time. At present, the minister of economic affairs and finance is in Moscow as the chairman of the joint Iranian-Soviet Economic Commission for talks on this topic.

I must explain that gas will be exported to the Soviet Union once the Kangan refinery has been commissioned. This refinery will have a daily production capacity of some 35 million cubic meters of sulphur-free gas in its first phase. This amount almost equals the country's present total gas production.

After the refinery goes on line, we will have surplus even after providing for all the domestic needs. We can export this surplus to any country with which we arrive at an understanding.

However, should we arrive at an understanding in our talks with the Soviet Union, even then exports of gas would not commence for another year is because work to bring the first phase of the Kangan refinery on line will begin early next year. Then we will need 1 year to sort out any problems and then to bring the refinery output up to a capacity of 35 million cubic meters. If there is anything available to export to the USSR, then it will have to be after 1 year. And it will have to be gas which is surplus to domestic needs.

Of course, we have not yet completed talks with the USSR which may lead to results. The price of gas has not yet been negotiated. We have only talked about the technical points of gas exports. It is natural that all our issues must yield results in order that we may feel that our gas exports to the Soviet Union can be realized. [end recording]

Majles Deputies Discuss Constitutional Reform

LD0512185088 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Majles deputies today expressed views for and against constitutional reform following statements by senior officials emphasizing the need for changes and clarifications in the basic document.

"Fundamental changes" in the Constitution was necessary said Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Ansari in a meeting organized at Tehran University's Law and Political Science College. But Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat believed there was a need for coordination rather than reform.

The basis for the discussion was a letter to Imam Khomeyni signed by nearly a hundred Majles members expressing concern over the ambiguous position of the special state panel for deciding matters of national expediency and its apparent right to legislate without constitutional authority.

It was estimated that the letter, written to Imam Khomeyni, had the support of two-thirds of the Majles but it was delivered to the imam shortly after it was prepared and not all who sympathized with it got a chance to sign it.

"The basic problem is not the Constitution itself but the failure to implement it," Hoj. Bayat said. The issue was rooted in the lack of coordination between various authorities specified in the Constitution and the way the relevant articles were interpreted.

"The law alone is not enough for a lively society. If there is no coordination the law would face the wall," he added.

But Hoj. Ansari believed the Constitution needed major reforms. "Fundamental changes in the Constitution are a real necessity at this stage of the Islamic Revolution," he said. He was generally supported by Deputy 'Abbas Duzduzani.

The need for the special state panel for matters of expedience was still felt. Nevertheless chapters about all three branches of state had to be changed. "The Constitution, raised by President 'Ali Khamene'i, head of the Experts Assembly Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, there was no serious effort to reform the document which was approved in a referendum nine years ago this week.

If there was a general consensus among Majles members and top leaders to make changes, Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar hashemi-Rafsanjani believes it should be done in Imam Khomeyni's lifetime, Bayat said.

President Khamene'i Answers Students' Questions

LD0612155688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 6 Dec 88

["Answer to Questions" program: President Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i answers students' written questions at unidentified university, date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am delighted to attend this program in your university. This is a university which ranks high among the universities in view of the large number of its students on the front and the number of its martyrs. This demonstrates the Islamic and revolutionary nature of this university and its students.

Our program is entitled "Answer to Questions," and its main objective is to answer the questions raised by you, dear brother and sister students. You write your questions down and hand them over to me and I answer them. I suppose you have either written down your questions already and passed them over or are doing so now. Well, let me answer your questions. Of course, there are plenty of questions, and we will discuss them as far as time permits.

The first question is this: Could you please give a summary of the reasons, or at least one of the reasons, for the acceptance of the resolution? One of these reasons was some shortages we were facing. Had the peace treaty been signed and had the neither-peace nor-war period

ended, I could give you many reasons. But at present the enemy is still in our territory. I can however tell you this, that our hope of realizing the goals of the war, which we ourselves had declared, was to a great extent weakened.

That is, had the war continued we would have certainly reached our goals in the long-term, perhaps. But this was not possible in the short space of time we had set ourselves. In the letter that the imam wrote, addressed to a number of chosen officials of the state and later read to them and also in the Islamic Majles by the imam's son, this point was mentioned. There were some other points in this letter, which we leave until the day when we can talk to you more freely.

The next question is this: The fact that Iran is releasing more POW's than Iraq, and Iran's lack of response in the face of Iraqi provocative actions are interpreted as our weakness vis-a-vis this regime; what is the reason for this weakness?

I say decisively that this does not stem from weakness. The reason is that we responded. However, the fact that you see more POWs are released by Iran than by Iraq is because we have agreed to exchange the wounded and disabled POWs. Who are the wounded and disabled POW's? They are the names registered by the Red Cross as the sick, disabled, or wounded prisoners.

The number of Iranian disabled POW's registered by the Red Cross in Iraq is about 500 or slightly fewer. Whereas the number of Iraqi wounded POWs registered by the organization in Iran is more than 1,000, that is, more than twice and nearly three times as many. When we are supposed to release all the wounded POWs within a timetable, then we have to release more disabled POWs each time, proportionally. [passage omitted]

Another question is asked by one of the brothers about those responsible for the assassination of Dr Sami, which happened on Friday. Obviously this was a crime, a horrific crime. May God bless Dr Sami's soul, although he was not cooperating with us and was not in the ranks of those working for the system. He was outside the system, but frankly he was a noble man and a believer. Of course, he had some objections, and maybe that is why he was not cooperating with us.

But I must say that he was not creating obstacles and was not bothering us, contrary to some others who do bother us. He was a believer and, of course, we had a long record of friendship with him during the revolution. We had worked together, and I knew Dr Sami closely. I knew him and his family. They were all very nice people. He was a religious man, and during his term of office as a [health] minister he worked very hard.

I was deeply distressed by this incident for two reasons. First, for losing a believer, a sympathetic and conscientious man. It makes no difference, a nice person is nice under any circumstances, whether he agrees with us and decides to work with us, or not. His decision and opinion are respected, and his political stance has nothing to do with his ideology.

Second, the incident demonstrated the weakness of the security system. The security system must thus be intensified so that such incidents are not repeated, specially in Tehran, the country's capital city.

A student has written: my question is whether or not you, that is to say the combatant clergy, agree with the further solidarity of the combatant clergy following the imam's message of Charter of Brotherhood? That is the first question. The second question is: We would like your personal opinion on the Islamic economic system and the role of the bazaar.

In connection with the first question, we of course favor solidarity. Of course I am not an active member of the combatant clergy. I am, of course, a member, as are Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and some other brothers. But as we have a lot of engagements, we cannot be active members. Our maximum activity may concern participation in the sessions of the combatant clergy's central council. I am aware that the combatant clergy are inclined toward further solidarity and greater cooperation following his eminence the imam's Charter of Brotherhood. They issued a statement in that respect and are involved in some additional works right now.

On my personal opinion on Islamic economics and the bazaar, I do not know exactly what you mean by Islamic economics. I do not think that you mean the Islamic economic organization, as I have no clear opinion on that. On the issue of Islamic economics, there are naturally many different opinions. On the issue of the bazaar, my opinion is that the bazaar has in no way had a negative connotation in Islam. Bazaar means trade and exchange; it means conducting business. The terms we use in today's bazaar are all mentioned in the Koran and in our jurisprudence.

Bazaar traders and businessmen are not included among negative values in Islam. Some people equate bazaar traders with profiteers or believe that trade and business are equal to thuggery and theft. No, it is not so; this is not so in Islamic provisions. Of course some people with inclinations toward leftist and socialist economy have tried—right from the outset of the revolution—to attribute a negative connotation to trade, business, commerce, and exchange. Well it is like this within the socialist mode of thought, in which trader means a thief, a plunderer, a greedy liar. But it is not so within Islamic economics. [passage omitted]

However, we must remember that there are traders who misuse their means. This is bad, or even doubly bad, because it involves the misuse of a kind of activity which is inherently healthy. Within the trading community, there are some who have really served the country during

the revolution's lifetime. They have tried to assist wherever and whenever necessary—from the front lines of the war, to public demonstrations, to exporting fish, and to giving all types of assistance to the government and the war effort, etc. Within the same community, there are some who did not waste a single hour in their relentless effort for amassing wealth.

Speaking frankly, this phenomena exists within all social strata. We can even see the same state among the clergy. We have good clergymen, and we have those who are being gradually eliminated, thanks to the special court for clerics. Even among you students there are good and bad ones. [passage omitted]

The next question: Although the war was a defensive movement, in essence it displayed the Koran through the mobilization forces. Please state whether you have found a use for this movement; that is to say do you have a strategy for elevating the level of public education and culture? [passage omitted]

There are many channels for disseminating culture and idea. We will not limit this to radio and television, although they are both very good means. But the best channel for propagating truth is face-to-face encounter. The method that we clerics used before the revolution of going and talking directly to people—similar to this session you and I are having—is much better than television lectures, is more effective, and enjoys a greater dimension of spirutual interaction. The clerics are still involved in acts of propagation, though they are not centrally organized by the government. Our clerics' task is still localized and we, as the state, do not organize these tasks.

There are also other branches of arts which need attention. Do not underestimate cinema and theatre; they are very important. Even music—that is, of course, good music which is not taboo and lewd, which imam pointed out in his recent decree—is a very important channel for disseminating Islamic ideas. [passage omitted]

The next question asks: my esteemed mentor! if the ruling strata pays attention to the Day of Judgment as one of islam's principles—please notice that he has not written believes in, just pays attention—it must not forget the principle that desires and worldly pleasures are judged on that day. [sentence indistinct]

This question expresses a friendly objection to some of the clerics who hold a position within the state apparatus. Firstly, not all those in the ruling circle are clerics. In the whole of the executive apparatus, of which I am the president, constituting one prime minister and 26 ministers, it is only I and a few others who are clerics; to be exact, four people are clerics and the rest non-clerics. Furthermore not all of the clerics are in the ruling circle. [passage omitted]

There are only a few clerics in the administration which is not much considering the large number of clerics in the country. But I agree that there are differences among some of the clerics that you talk about, although this is a bitter fact. If differences among ordinary people are bad, they are even worse when they occur among officials, especially if they happen to be clerics. I pointed to this in one of my Friday prayer sermons, immediately following imam's Charter of Brotherhood. Clerics constitute a group whose presence in society is different from the rest of people; they have a role which influences people.

Frankly speaking, we have tried and are still trying to remedy this problem. Personally I have established contacts with the clerics in Qom, in Tehran, and in other cities, urging them to resolve their moral and political differences, but not ideological differences, since they do not exist anyway. Because even minor differences among the clerics seem major before the public. Furthermore, even minor problems encourage splits. This is because the existence of the clerics and their influence upon society by far exceeds those of ordinary people. [repetitive passage omitted]

The next question: what are the reasons behind the Islamic Republic's total diregard for human rights issues and its refusal to allow the UN human rights' experts to investigate this issue? what are the reasons behind the extensive executions all over Iran? Have all the executions in the past been able to play a useful role? The tone of this question is similar to the tone used in foreign radio stations and other foreign circles. But in any case it is question to which I must respond.

We do not accept the implications behind the question asking the reason behind the total disregard for human rights. In no way whatsoever do we disregard human rights. No where in the world will you find a country in which the heads of state—like the president or prime minister or top officials—have such close contact with their people. This is one part of human rights. You will find few places in the world in which freedom of expression exists to the degree that it does in Iran.

In many parts of the world, the honor and the rights of the accused are not respected as much as they are in Iran. Of course those who speak against us in the world seek to allow the Monafeqin [hypocrites; Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the enemies of the system to topple this system, and to do as they please, and the system is slow to react. This is not possible, as it goes against the interests of the people and the revolution.

The reason that we are not allowing this human rights investigator to come to Iran is, firsly, because this gentleman, who is now in charge of Iranian affairs at the UN, is a citizen of El Salvador, a country supported by the Americans. Now you must see how much respect is held in El Salvador for human rights to allow that country's delegate to become the champion of human rights in the United Nations. Secondly if the UN Human

Rights Commission is striving to support human rights issues, why have they not ever said a word against the Monafeqin and the counterrevolutionary groups, who have indulged in the worst types of atrocities right from the outset of the revolution. Did Amnesty International ever say a word about those atrocities? Do they not accept, or are they not aware that the bomb explosion in the Islamic Republic Party headquarters was carried out by the Monafeqin [in 1981]?

Do they not concede that the prime minister and the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred at the hands of the Monafeqin? Do they not accept that acts of terrorism have taken place in this country by the Monafeqin? The kind of acts which have led to the martyrdom of many infants, women, men, and innocent people. Why don't they condemn these acts? Why don't they ask the Monafeqin about human rights? Why do they listen to reports compiled by the enemies of the system of Islamic Republic when they are trying to understand Iranian affairs, while not even paying any attention to the report by the Islamic Republic's delegate to the UN?

That was one of the issues which we discussed with the officials from various countries. We asked why the UN Human Right Commission did not call the Iranian UN delegate and ask for explanations and clarifications through the presentation of statistics. No. The anti-Islamic Republic movement, initiated by the claimants to human rights, is an unhealthy move. It is the continuation of various propaganda slanders waged against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The issue is not really to do with human rights.

We claim that we respect human rights more than those countries that have human rights as their central slogans. Mr Reagan in his trip to the Soviet Union placed the issue of human rights in that country as the main item on the agenda. There is no one who would ask Reagan: Do you comply with human rights in the United States? Are the rights of the blacks respected? Is the blacks' livelihood provided for? Do the blacks in the United States earn a wage in proportion to the amount they work? Did you not invade Grenada? Are you not involved in arming the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries? Have you not exerted so much dastardly pressure on Iran? Did you not shoot down the Iranian airliner? Are these not contraventions of human rights?

The problem has a political dimension, more than anything else, my brother. The foreign radio stations do not speak in vain; they are merely continuing the same political course.

Now to the issue of executions, to quote the question: the extensive executions throughout Iran. This is exactly the same type of interpretation offered by the foreign radio stations. Did we ever claim to have abolished the death penalty? No. We do have the death penalty for those who deserve it. The person who has written this question may object, saying we should abolish death penalty altogether. This issue is a separate one which will need discussions.

Like many other countries of the world we have the death penalty in our legal system, but it is only for those who have committed crimes for which our laws recommend death penalty. We will execute anyone who has committed one of those crimes, no matter who it is. It makes no difference if they are friends or relatives. The person who is a monafeq will be executed if he commits those crimes. He will not, however, be executed if he does not commit those crimes. The same applies to those belonging to Marxist grouplets.

The type of person who establishes contact from within the prison with the Monafeqin when the fare carrying out attacks inside Iranian territory and committing crimes and atrocities in Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karend should not be treated with sweets and candies. If his relations with the counterrevolution's movements are clearly established, he should be sentenced to execution, in our opinion. And we shall execute him. Of course, when I say "we" I mean the system; I am not part of the judiciary, though I approve these measures. If someone has not committed crimes fit for execution, he definitely will not be executed.

Our logic in this connection is crystal clear; we do not indulge in coverup.

As regards the question that asks if executions in the past have been able to produce any benefits, I must say that executions take place to comply with God's decree. It may have benefits, or it may not. If the problem is that of ignorance it can be cured by various remedies. Problems must be resolved by good advice and by guidance to the right path. [Koranic verse] But I must remind you that the same prophet who received this sentence from the Koran, the very same prophet recommended the death penalty for some crimes and for some individuals.

These were all together, the real cure is complex with various elements. I personally do not claim to be a person who is able to remedy people's problems and weaknesses. I need the remedy and the cure myself. But I do believe that if we comply with every word of Islam's stricture, then we shall have the necessary cure.

The next question is: Is it not odd to expect the people to trust authorities who make so many contradictory remarks? For instance, in connection with the acceptance of Resolution No 598, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opinion changed 180 degrees within a period of 1 week; and in connection with accepting the same oil quota as Iraq at OPEC, Mr Aqazadeh completely rejected the proposal and then accepted it a day later.

To be frank, what our brother mentions are not contradictions. I must explain this. Of course it is not good to make contradictory remarks. Some people also say that the responsible officials contradict one another. Well, we try to avoid this. It is not good if a person says something and another person contradicts him. But what our brother or sister has written is not an example of contradictory remarks. About Resolution No 598, of course we had no intention of accepting it 1 week before we declared it. What sort of objection is this? When we are determined not to accept a resolution, or when we have not yet decided to accept it, that is sometimes we are determined not to accept and on another occasion we might be hesitant about accepting, in such a situation one cannot, for example, preach at the Friday prayers and say, for instance, that we might accept the resolution.

Such remarks would have shaken the morale of the people and the combatants and would have created chaos. An earlier stance should be adhered to until the last moment when a firm decision is made. In addition, neither Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, nor I, nor anyone else had any idea 1 week before the acceptance whether the resolution was going to be accepted. It was not we who accepted the resolution; the imam accepted the resolution. The imam accepted the ceasefire. It was beyond our authority, it was the leader's duties. We only found out about the decision a few days before the rest of the people. That is, we were the first to be informed by the imam that the war was over.

Of course, this decision had come in the wake of the many reports sent to his holiness. On the whole, these reports from the government, the guards corps, and everywhere else had convined his holiness that we should accept the resolution. Before the imam's acceptance, not a soul knew about it. That is, I can claim that even a day before the imam's acceptance, we had no idea that such a thing would happen.

The day the imam accepted the resolution, he told me, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mr Musavi-Ardabili, and Prime Minister Musavi to go and arrange a meeting. We proposed some names to attend the meeting, and his holiness endorsed these and added few more names. We sat around and raised the issue. We wanted to ask for their advice. We thought that the imam had ordered us to seek their advice, too. Whereas when we invited those gentlemen, the imam released a writte message in which he wrote that he had accepted the resolution. We did not have any prior knowledge of the message either. How can we expect Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani not to mention anything about the war, when he has no idea whether the resolution is going to be accepted the following week?

In connection with the oil quota, the oil minister, Brother Aqazadeh stood firm, and his mission was to realize Iran's demand. We said that we would not accept parity with Iraq, and we did not accept this until the end. What has happened is quite different from what they intended to do in the beginning. Iraq was demanding a share equal to Iran's. We were rejecting this demand for political and economic reasons. After Mr Aqazadeh's firm rejection and our firm decision here, the Arab countries agreed to give some of their own quotas to Iraq. [passage omitted about trip to Iran by four OPEC oil ministers to persuade Iran to give up demand]

The next question asks: Does the exchange of POW's provide a hopeful path for the implementation of peace between Iran and Iraq. The reply is that it does not. Of course, Iraq is using the issue of the POW exchange as a slogan and instrument of pressure. But it is a political ploy. What must take first place is the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. That is, they must leave our territory. This is the first task which must, in principle, take place. Prior to that, whatever else takes place benefits Iraq. It is to delay the alleviation of pressure on us and thus it is tantamount to a loss to us. Thus it is necessary for us not to agree. Of course. Iraq has created a fuss, saying it is humanitarian, and asking why the Iranians do not accept it. We too have our own logic.

So the repatriation of the POW's not only cannot help the effort for a peace pact but it even delays it. This is because Iraq will keep its forces—may keep its forces—in such a case. At that time not all the articles of the resolution will be implemented; one of its articles is the six in which the issue of the initiator of war and war damages has been raised. [passage omitted]

The next question concerns inflation and high prices. Imports of goods without transfer of foreign exchange are said to create high prices and thus may endanger the order of society.

I must say that imports without foreign exchange from the government were intended to slow down the rise in prices. That objective will be achieved. As you know, one of the factors for inflation, and maybe the basic factor, is the shortage of goods produced or imported, that is, lower supply naturally leads to rising prices and reduce the value of money. That is inflation. If we manage to transform the dollars which people hold—at present there are some dollars held by the people—as well as the dollars held by Iranians living abroad into goods needed by the people and then bring those goods to the country, then the supply of goods will increase.

That will lead to lower prices; it will lower inflation. That was our objective. The Ministry of Commerce is now implementing it under an orderly program. Of course, some questions remain, but I think it is better for me not to continue.

Interior Minister Addresses Domestic Issues

PM0112124188 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Nov 88 pp 2-15

[Interview with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT] What plans does the Interior Ministry have to combat the increasing trend of immorality in the country?

[Mohtashami] There are, as always differences of opinion on confronting this problem. Problems dealing with cultural issues are always very sensitive and cannot be solved by bullying or pressure. A great deal of the problem relates back to a weak culture. Here, we have to differentiate between the people who are victims of the situation.

One group acts immorally because of weak cultural upbringing; the other group spreads corruption due to profit-seeking motives; the third group is a network of elements linked to foreigners, who follow purely political goals in their attempts to render our youth cultureless and immoral.

God willing, the problem of the first group, which makes up the majority, will sort itself out naturally with middle-range and long-term planning of cultural programs. In this case, most of the burden falls on the cultural organizations such as the Ministries of Education and Culture and Islamic Guidance, the propaganda offices of the Qom Theological Center, the Islamic Propaganda Organization, Friday prayers squads, respected representatives of the imam, art and science centers, and so forth. Of course, improving the economic situation, filling young people's free time, and increasing the marriage rates also will play an important role in solving this problem.

In terms of the second group, Islamic laws must be defined and prepared and their execution will have to be seen to be the judicial power, which, in turn, will solve the problem of the second group, God willing.

The third group has entered the scene in a preplanned manner with the help of espionage agencies, in order to deliver blows to and ultimately to destroy the Islamic Revolution. This requires exact intelligence, religious, political, and judicial activity. Our opponents are not internal elements, but fearful and devastating espionage organizations of the East and West, mostly the American CIA.

[ETTELA'AT] There are reasons to believe that corrupt culture, immorality, drug addiction, and so forth for the past several years have been spread and organized by international networks in Iran as weapons to confront the Islamic Revolution. What are your views on the subject?

[Mohtashami] World aggressors, headed by the criminal United States, have used many methods to control and destroy the flames of the Islamic Revolution, including economic, military, and political pressure. They have used everything at their disposal to this purpose. We believe that the spread of corrupt culture, immorality, un-Islamic dress, improper Islamic dress, and drug addiction are all part and parcel of means to achieve this goal. Aggression wants to use these methods to render our youth impotent, to make our society vulnerable. By destroying their physical and moral fiber, they want to remove our young people from the scene so that at the proper time they can strike to achieve their evil goal of destroying the revolution.

At present there is a flood of immoral European and American videotapes on the market. Foreign radios are very active; Iranian performers and actors of the past regime have gathered outside the country; and international drug smugglers have gathered on the eastern borders. All this shows that the East and West have mobilized for a cultural confrontation against the great Islamic Revolution. So, keeping in mind the widespread nature of this plot, we must seek help from the principles of pure Islamic teachings in various areas of politics, science, culture, arts, and sports. We must fill the spare time of the young people who make up a great majority of our population and who are most at risk from this foreign onslaught. There must be serious planning for this situation, and the Interior Ministry has taken some action in this regard.

We feel that sports, being very attractive to youths, is a good beginning and a good way to fill young people's spare time. Group sports also could involve a good many of our young people, especially since the number of youths in this country is greater in comparison to other nations. At present we are at a rebuilding stage and in the reality our young people have been left in a void since the the end of the war. This is why attention to this factor is even more important now.

In any case, all involved organizations and bodies must prepare the groundwork to give new generations the opportunity to use their talents in the scientific and cultural areas and to stay away from the evils of the aggressors' plot, to provide our country with healthy, religious, happy, bright, and inventive youths.

[ETTELA'AT] What has the Interior Ministry done, keeping in mind the sensitivity of the Hezbollah people toward issues such as improper Islamic dress, immorality, and other social issues?

[Mohtashami] The enemies of Islam and our revolution had 50 years' experience in controlling our culture. When they confronted our revolution and the anger of our people toward that culture, they tried to take away our pure Islam using the onslaught of corrupt culture,

spreading immorality, and so forth to take away our belief. They used networks of families who did not believe in Islam to carry out their evil plans.

They used some of the families and the young people who had been affected by that culture because of improper Islamic upbringing and in this way they wanted to defile the Islamic face of our society. In any case, they were not successful and we managed to control the spread of this corruption.

It is necessary to have the law on your side in order to totally confront this type of issue. There must be an establishment that directly deals with this sort of thing. With the special attention of the prime minister and the efforts of the Interior Ministry last winter the formation of a social council for provinces was approved by the cabinet, which truly is the best forum to tackle these issues.

These councils have started their work in the provinces, headed by governors general, with representatives of various ministries and organizations, Friday prayer leaders, and respected representatives of the imam. Their aim is to raise the level of spirituality and to recognize available facilities that will enable us to get rid of social corruption. So far, keeping in mind the problems and obstacles in the provinces, especially those provinces that were on the fronts of the war the results of these councils have been very good.

These councils and commissions set up for this purpose discuss: cultural issues, morality, education, drug addiction and smuggling, and environment issues. Special commissions in some provinces examine issues unique to those provinces, which include the [Caspian] Sea and the Afghan refugees in the northern and eastern provinces.

This type of work will continue in the future. There are also plans to tackle social corruption, especially improper Islamic dress, those who do not wear proper Islamic clothing, immorality, sexual deviations, control of foreign culture, and so forth. There are also plans to involve the youth in culture, welfare, sports, and arts in the provinces, the results of which will be announced later.

Finally, I must remind you that all-out cooperation from the government and the people, is needed to cut deeply into social deviations. The social commission in the provinces could be one of the best places to make decisions on these issues. We hope that with the cooperation of other government bodies and the local provincial officials, the social commission will find its own place in society to carry out its duties.

[ETTELA'AT] The problem of narcotics takes on a more and more dangerous look every day. Is there a specific program to combat the situation?

[Mohtashami] A real danger exists for the country and the revolution, which has cultural, economic, and political facets. One has to look into the collective capitalist system in order to combat and confront the issue. As for the security and judicial side of the question, there have been some obstacles. However, a plan is now being approved by the assembly to determine government laws that will make it easier for the security forces and the judicial authorities to confront smugglers. I hereby announce the full cooperation of the Interior Ministry for the security program for narcotics and we hope that our brothers in the judiciary will deal sternly with the issue of drugs once the new law is passed.

[ETTELA'AT] As you know, the way in which the Jamshid district [red light district famous for drug pushers] was destroyed raised some questions. What did the Interior Ministry do about this?

[Mohtashami] We have provided some details to our dear people about the destruction of the Jamshid district which was like an ugly spot on the face of the Islamic Republic, spreading poison throughout the young community like a pimple filled with pus. It also had our enemies' attention. What is worthy of mention at this time is that this area, because of its geographical position of houses and roads, and reputation going back several decades, was being used as a shelter for the corrupt elements and counterrevolutionaries as well as international bands of drug smugglers.

The growth of the area was like a cancer in the years following the revolution and the corruption spread to some of the homes. These elements knew that the people who lived in those houses would not say anything to the law officers in order to keep their own names clean and so they used this as a weapon to carry on with their actions.

This is why the Interior Ministry carried out its plan to destroy the entire area with the help of other government organizations. The ministry has the duty to combat the roots of evil and corruption in society. This was done so that, first, there would be no worry of any type about corruption springing up in that area again in the years to come. Second, there was need to confront legally all similar situations in other parts of the country. Of course, other responsible bodies such as the judiciary and health and education authorities also have to look into other facets of the situation as a part of their duties.

It would have been naive to fight against this center of corruption with prior announcements. If those elements had the slightest knowledge of what was going to happen they would have disappeared throughout the country like microbes in the air. So the action was done quickly and in a coordinated manner. In the first stage, some 1,200 people including prostitutes and other evil elements with long criminal records were arrested. More information gradually came in and others were picked up including those who had corrupted dozens of young

girls and women. Of course, some of those arrested now are being held in special centers set up for these people, where they are getting proper education and training after their interrogations.

The Interior Ministry also has taken action to rebuilt this area. This has been done with government approval and is reaching its final stages. This plan has been drawn up with the idea that this area in the past had the most negative and devastating effects on our youths, so its replacement must provide for the education of our young peoples' bodies and minds as well as fulfilling some of the needs of southern Tehran.

Conditions of the plan are that there should be no houses or shops in the area between Qazvin Street, Estakhr, Halal Ahmar and Karkar Streets. Instead there will be sports, educational and religious facilities, healthy entertainment, and green space. With the cooperation of the Plan and Budget Ministry, the first sums have been put aside for this.

Much has been done with regard to housing for the people who lived or had shops there and other legal actions are being taken. The Interior Ministry is approaching this as a legal duty, like the destructions carried out elsewhere in the country, to be replaced by welfare projects. The only difference here is that the destruction did not only take place to make way for welfare development, but it was aimed at removing a nest of corruption that had been causing people a lot of anxiety. We expect that we will come across more patience and more cooperation from the people who lived or had shops there.

There were about 1,200 families living there. From researching existing documents and the confessions of those arrested, the houses used as centers of prostitution, corruption, or drug abuse have been identified. This leaves the respectable families who lived there either in their own homes or in rented accommodations. The government, which is eager to serve the people, has put aside money to pay rent for 3 months so that those renting can find homes elsewhere.

Housing has been provided for those respected people who owned their own homes there, which number some 90 families. The government is building some homes for the others. These are almost finished and, following a series of formalities, will be handed to their new owners. These people are receiving a monthly payment so that they can find rented accommodation. We are hoping that, with the cooperation of the Housing and Urban Development Ministry, this part of the work will be completed by the end of this year [ending 21 March 1989].

Some shopkeepers still occupy their shops; they have been given notice that their places of business are within the destruction area. After finding suitable land on which to set up new shops, the existing shops also will be destroyed.

For those shops already destroyed, in order to speed things up, the unions and guilds in the area have been asked to draw up a list of all legitimate businesses in the area to give to the housing committee run by the Interior Ministry, the governorate of Tehran, the Tehran municipality, and the Islamic Revolution Committees. After a series of legal steps, compensation will be made.

In this regard, some 350 cases have been introduced so far by the guilds and actions are being taken. Most of these people were engaged in the scrap metal or metalwares business. A 80,000-sq-meter piece of land has been designated in Yaftabad . After surveys and planning, it will be given in plots to these shopowners who with the help of various organizations will quickly be able to set up new shops in this region.

Other plots of land have been designated in various parts of Tehran for other types of shops. They will be handed over to those who meet the requirements.

[ETTELA'AT] The Constitution mentions the formation of Islamic Councils. The laws for the elections and details of these councils have been approved by the Majles but this law has not yet been put into effect. Could you please say when the elections for the Islamic Councils will take place?

[Mohtashami] One look at the Islamic Revolution, its success and its endurance, will tell you that the peoples' presence on the scenes was one of the main elements. This is why the Assembly of Experts, which wrote the Constitution, gave a whole chapter to this important organization.

With regard to duties and types of decisionmaking, these Councils are local ones designed to encourage the development of the people's hidden talents and to give them dignity. As mentioned, the Majles has approved a bill on the formation of the Islamic Councils; it also has approved their election laws. Based on this law, the Interior Ministry has prepared a decree for Council elections, which has been handed to the Cabinet for approval. It has not so far been approved by the cabinet nor has it been handed back to the Interior Ministry.

Plans and programs are needed to realize the people's presence in the country's reconstruction. It can be said that the Islamic Councils are just the tools needed for this important issue. This is why the Interior Ministry is planning to put into action the law on Islamic Councils, thereby taking an important step toward the realization of one chapter of the Constitution. The people's participation will be organized, which in itself will be a great success, with the formation of the Councils. In this connection, at the beginning of this August, a seminar for all the governors general was held to discuss reconstruction and the Councils. Also discussed were preliminary preparations for Council elections. The seminar formulated some guidelines which have been forwarded to the respected prime minister.

As to a date for the Council elections, if there is no opposition from the respected heads of the three branches—judiciary, parliamentary, and executive—and when the necessary steps are taken, the elections will be held according to a plan.

[ETTELA'AT] What sort of role will the Councils have in the country's reconstruction?

[Mohtashami] As mentioned in the Constitution, the peoples' help must be sought in social, economic, welfare, health, cultural, educational, and other matters, within the framework of the Islamic Councils. These Councils will symbolize the peoples' participation.

This participation will have various shapes and forms. In some cases, the Councils have a right to supervise, as mentioned in the law. In some cases, they can even take part in executive decisions by cooperating with the executive branch and taking charge of some issues. In general, the peoples' cooperation in the country's reconstruction can be realized in several ways;

1. Consultations in terms of programs, classification of the plans, and assigning priorities.

2. Cooperation in terms of manpower, in terms of providing manpower for various reconstruction plans, welfare plans, and so forth.

3. Cooperation in terms of finance where they would provide some of the funds for the projects.

The people's cooperation and participation can be fully realized by forming a communications network through the Islamic Councils, with guidance from the government.

[ETTELA'AT] At what stage is the law of political parties?

[Mohtashami] Since I have been minister, there has been a lot of followup involving this law which was passed some 7 years ago, but which has been dormant since. This law has four parts: Islamic Councils, organizations and guilds, religious minorities, and political parties.

Some of the details that were approved by the government were opposed by the president, organizations, and some officials who had problems with them. These have been rewritten and approved several times and are ready to be passed as law. With regard to the guilds and organizations, this section has been corrected and sent to the government and the president for approval. As soon as this is received, the Interior Ministry and the Commission for Article 10 of the Constitution, dealing with political parties, the bill will be executed.

With regard to the relgious minorities, since the bill had not been opposed in any way, there have been steps taken to match the minorities' charters with the law for political parties. New elections for these must be held under the supervision of Interior Ministry officials. Various legal matters also must be looked into by experts at the office of political parties as well as the ministry's political section. All in all, much has been approved and announced in the official newspapers. So now, all religious minorities in the provinces must apply to the governors' offices and in Tehran to the political office of the Interior Ministry so that their charters can be legalized, their councils elected, and other formalities completed. They then can receive their officials papers.

Thank God, since the elections for the third Majles and the introduction of two deputies, several meetings have been held so far by the Commission for Article 10 of the Constitution, which deals with parties and organizations. Most of these talks have focused on ways in which the political parties' law can be implemented. The mentioned Commission will have a supervisory role in the formation and establishment of political parties. We hope if God is willing the Interior Ministry soon will be in a position to announce how parties can apply for their official papers and that they have to do. All this will be announced to the public as it goes through various stages.

[ETTELA'AT] These days we see long lines of people outside centers where they give interest-free loans. Some of these centers are not even able to pay back the original amount paid in by the clients. On the other hand, we also can see some action taken by the Interior Ministry in this regard. Could you please give some details on this?

[Mohtashami] These centers go back several years. Since no law existed to supervise such centers, they enjoyed unreasonable growth for a limited period. Some of them deviated from the very spirit of the interest-free loan system. The Interior Ministry found out that some of these centers missued peoples' money. funds given to the centers for security were used by some of the centers to buy and sell cars, land, and shops, to participate in urban development schemes, to buy and sell houses, to buy and then hoard goods needed by the people, later selling it at huge profits. Funds also were used for personal loans to friends and other types of quick loans not entered into the official books.

In general, the lack of supervision over these interest-free loan centers created a great deal of chaos. First of all, steps were taken to introduce a bill to organize their affairs through legal help and banking experts. This bill is now in its final stages and is being discussed by the Cabinet. If God is willing, it will become law when it has passed through the Majles. Along with this action and as a short-term policy, we announced a ban on the formation of new centers which means that for the past year we have had no new centers set up. In addition to all this, effort was made to stop the activities of the centers which did not have proper documentation.

[ETTELA'AT] What will happen to the people whose money was placed in centers already closed down—keeping in mind the preventative measures that you have just mentioned?

[Mohtashami] As mentioned before, some of these centers used the peoples' money for private loans or other things so they were not able to pay clients who wanted their money back. Of course, this created a situation where thens of thousands of people have been left out in the cold because of bankrupt centers. If the necessary actions had not been taken we would have seen much worse situations.

Our effort, as a first stage, was to merge the bankrupt centers into well-established, official centers. Where this was implemented, there were good results, but because of the large numbers of people involved, this action alone is not enough to satisfy all the demands of the people. It seems the files of those centers at fault, which are in court at the moment, will have to pass their normal legal phase. We will then have to see what the court decides with regard to the peoples' money and those found guilty. We also will have to see what can be done to get the money back from those center managers who are now in prison.

The Interior Ministry will help the country's financial and economic officials to somehow use the government's facilities to release the people from the clutches of the centers at fault. In the meantime, another plan exists to supervise the affairs hope and promises and analysis to fool their followers into taking these military actions. Some internal purges presently are taking place inside this group. Once the group's real evil and wicked nature and severe dependence became know, its followers became suspicious of the leaders. These people did whatever they could,—assassinations, bombings, as well as spying for Iraq throughout the war—to commit treason against the Islamic homeland.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the situation of the leftist groups at the moment?

[Mohtashami] The leftist groups have reached a dead end, especialy since the ceasefire, both in terms of ideology and finding supporters and manpower inside the country.

They talked about false slogans and tied the fate of the Islamic Republic with continuation of the war. After the ceasefire, they saw that this regime was seriously following the path of reconstruction. Now, after 10 years, the slow death of these groups has come about. Many of their members have repented and asked for letters and promises of good conduct, which are under consideration.

[ETTELA'AT] What is the current situation in the western section of the country?

[Mohtashami] There is total security in the western part of Iran and the members of the grouplets face more and more hatred from the people. Recent trips to the area by the president and the prime minister and the very warm welcome they received from the locals, show the people's affection for Islam and the revolution.

At the same time, the grouplets present in that area have been crushed and the numbers of those who have repented and asked for letters of safe conduct have increased greatly. Members of these groups have questioned their leaders and in some cases even the leaders themselves have given up. This is quite obvious in the change in some of them from a military attitude to a political stance, in the various splits that are occurring in the groups, and in the departure of some of their members to Western countries.

In any case, we are asking those group members who regret their past to come forward before it is too late and to turn themselves in so that they once again can be welcomed into the arms of the people. Right now, the question of a general amnesty for these people is under review.

[ETTELA'AT] How will the Islamic Republic react to those group members who have repented and want to come back into society?

[Mohtashami] These groups have never had and will never have any dignity among the people. Since Islam is a religion of forgiveness and this regime is based on Islam, effort has always been made to welcome those members of the grouplets who have repented. As before, the heroic people of Iran are willing to take these people back.

Of course with regard to the current situation in the country, the leaders of these groups do not have a long life. The counterrevolutionary grouplets are all linked to foreign powers. Their very existence, under the present conditions, is linked to the world-engulfing United States. Since the leadership of the revolution and the brave people of Iran are in constant struggle against world aggressors, headed by the United States, the grouplets naturally are included under this and must be destroyed in this struggle. Our heroic people, to keep their liberty and independence have no choice but to fight the United States and the grouplets linked to it. In reality, our people's struggle against the groups is one for independence, which will be a source of great disappointment for the world aggression.

I announce once again that the supporters of the grouplets should free themselves from their authoritarian masters to come back to the kind and loving arms of Islam. Islam and the Iranian people accept those who have repented but will fight against those who continue to be servants of foreigners and who resist.

[ETTELA'AT] It was said in the news that the second meeting of a joint border commission between Iran and Pakistan was held recently. Could you please give some details about this?

[Mohtashami] The second meeting of the joint border commission between Iran and Pakistan met for 2 days starting on 17 October in Zahedan. The commission's basic work dealt with a protocol that was signed between the two nations on matters of security and border cooperation. It was decided that to prevent unpleasant incidents on the border and to expand cooperation in maintaining security, there should be continued meetings between border officials from both sides. There was once again stress on the brotherly relations between the two nations.

[ETTELA'AT] What are your views on the Iranian expatriates coming back to this country?

[Mohtashami] At present there are large numbers of Iranian expatriates who want to come back to Iran. The Iranians who have gone abroad had different reasons for doing so. Most of them had to do with the imposed war and its effects. Islamic Republic regime not only is not preventing the return of these people, it is welcoming an encouraging them.

We are now constructing the country after 8 years of war with the enemy. The nation of Iran has many children abroad with technical and scientific expertise. The officials of the regime must use this expertise and this manpower which sees itself as one belonging to Islam and Iran. They must make plans to bring about the return of these people to Iran. The government that serves the people could use the high quality expertise of these dedicated Iranians to limit the reasons for the possible need of foreign experts and foreign technicians, thereby reducing the country's independence on foreign governments. Those Iranians who love their country and who are living abroad must return to the country and must take an active part in the country's reconstruction to pay their dues to Islam and Iran.

[ETTELA'AT] With regard to the reconstruction of the country, which could perhaps lead to the comings and goings of foreign technicians, what plans have been made?

[Mohtashami] Steps have been taken so that God forbid there will be no negative political and security issues with regard to the comings and goings of foreign technicians, if their presence is needed. Their movements must be coordinated with the Interior Ministry, the governors general, and related organizations. Special identity cards for foreigners will define the limits of their movements.

[ETTELA'AT] Does the Interior Ministry have plans for the reorganization of the security forces since these forces are under that ministry's control?

[Mohtashami] The general policy at the Interior Ministry is to eliminate parallel or similar organizations or to merge and coordinate organizations and give them equal responsibilities.

In this connection, there is a plan at the ministry to unify the command of the security forces. There will perhaps be one force formed from personnel at the Gendarmerie, the Islamic Revolution Committees, and the police. Of course, this needs careful examination. There has been adequate coordination with the acting chief of the Armed Forces in this regard.

The merging of the three forces into one will naturally enhance the activities of the country's security forces.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Cited on Al-Ta'if Talks

LD0612223388 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 Gmt 6 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA—The Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI commented in an editorial Tuesday that a government coming to power in Afghanistan with the tacit approval of either the U.S. or the Soviets will not fare any better than the present government in that country. It said the Al-Ta'if conference (December 3-4) between representatives of a coalition of Afghan mujahidin and the Soviets may eventually mean that the Soviets will pull out their troops from Afghanistan, that the government in that country will remain in power, that the Americans will involve their own supporters in the ruling clique in Kabul, and that the Saudis will likewise involve supporters of an American-brand of Islam in Afghanistan and mend their long-severed diplomatic relations with the Soviets.

The following is excerpts from the daily's article.

'The ruling government in Hijaz (Riyadh) is trying to involve itself in the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. The Saudis played a leading role in a meeting several months ago between a group of mujahidin leaders including mujahidin resistance leader Burhanuddin Rabbani and Reagan. The Saudis also hosted a meeting between the mujahidin and the Soviets in Riyadh on Saturday...

'Previously the Soviets refused to encounter the mujahidin in face-to-face talks on ground that they were backed by the Americans as well as the Saudis, while the mujahidin, on the other hand, refused to negotiate with Kabul on ground of its being a protege government and as such unconstitutional.

'To the Soviets who have halted their troops pull-out from Afghanistan the question is how to finish the job without incurring casualties, and at the same time keep a pro-Soviet government in power in that country. This is never likely to happen unless the Soviets first get some sort of assurance from the mujahidin, and agree to do so by giving concessions to them. To do so the Soviets have

opted to negotiate with a certain group of the mujahidin who have earlier sat for talks with the other superpower, that is the United States. In other words the very same people ready to talk with Reagan will also agree to talk with the Soviets.

'In all likelihood the talks in Riyadh were not held without the good opinion of the United States, and the involvement in the talks of the Saudis as a U.S.-inspired government is sufficient proof for the claim. The Saudis' initiative for intermediating between the two sides implies that the Americans uphold talks for settling regional crises within the context of an agreement with the Soviets, and hence the involvement of a U.S. operative in the region, the Saudis.

'That the representatives of mujahideen should have described the talks as having been "successful" means that the Americans and the Saudis are intent on involving their own supporters among the Afghan mujahidin in any talks for settling the Afghan issue much as the Saudis have denied involvement in the talks.

'To the Soviets to sit for talks with a mujahidin supporting the U.S. and the Saudis is better than to sit with those groups of the mujahidin who oppose both superpowers. Why? Because the latter group will not bring themselves to giving concessions to either of the big powers, or will not sit for talks with their representatives for that matter.

'The Al-Ta'if conference provides also an opportunity to the Saudis and the Soviets alike to resume contacts for normalization of relations. Moscow and Riyadh severed relations in 1948, though contacts have been made between the two capitals in the past few years.

'A complete troops pull-out by the Soviets from Afghanistan is the Saudis' conditions for resumption of relations with the Soviets. If the Al-Ta'if conference should prove a success, and if representatives of the mujahidin and the Soviets should strike an agreement then the road for the Soviets' pull-out from Afghanistan will have been paved, which means a well-prepared ground for resumption of Saudi-Soviet relations. Already the rumor abroad is that Moscow and Riyadh are shortly to restore diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

'Such being the background, one can imagine the course of the future developments in Afghanistan: The Soviets will pull out their troops from Afghanistan, and the ruling regime in that country will continue in power, the United States will involve its own supporters in the government in Afghanistan. The Saudis, too, will bring to power supporters of the U.S. brand of Islam and will at the same time resume relations with the Soviets the sum of which developments means no threat to the Kabul regime. All these probables will become real life developments when and if the talks have successfully ended in the judgment of both sides.

'For representatives of the mujahidin to say that the talks have ended successfully is far too deficient a statement. To evaluate the situation acceptably we should also hear the observations of other groups in the conflict. But however that evaluation may be no externally-dictated solution to the plight of the Afghans is likely to be regarded as acceptable without the full involvement of all representatives of the people of Afghanistan, and any government coming to power in that country without the will and sanction of the militant masses in Afghanistan will not be heading for a better end than that of the present government in Kabul.'

'Strong Tremor' Shakes Northwest Area

LD0712094888 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA—A strong tremor measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale shook an area about 1,000 kms northwest of here this morning.

The Geophysics Department of Tehran University which registered the earthquake, said it occurred at 11.13.27 hours Tehran time.

It also said the tremor was registered in Tabriz and Orumiyeh (E. and W. Azarbayjan Provinces of Iran) measuring 3 on the Richter scale.

Pakistan

PPP Clarifies Fielding Candidate for Presidency

BK0612145188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] In the national interest, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has decided not to field its candidate in the presidential elections and to support the present president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in order to prevent any kind of obstacle in the restoration of democracy and to maintain consensus at the national level.

To remove all possible doubts and suspicions in this connection, the co-chairman of the PPP has categorically stated that General Tikka Khan, retired, has filed the nomination paper as a precaution, which is described (?in this regard) as cover candidate [preceding two words rendered in English]. This kind of candidate always withdraws his nomination before the elections.

On behalf of the PPP, Gen Nasirullah Khan Babar, retired, has said the party wants to keep the post of the president above all sorts of differences, so that national integration can be maintained on this issue.

Islami Jamhuri Ittehad leader Mian Nawaz Sarif also has reiterated that his party fully supports the nomination of Ghulam Ishaq Khan for post of president.

Bhutto Gives Additional Portfolios to 4 Ministers

BK0712090888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 7 Dec 88

[Text] The prime minister has given additional ministerial responsibilities to four more federal ministers and one minister of state, effective immediately. The federal ministers and their additional portfolios are:

Syed Amir Hyder Kazmi: Education

Makhdoom Amin Fahim: Railways;

Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat: Industries

Jahangir Badar: Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Minister of State Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Water and Power.

17,000 To Have Prison Sentences Commuted

BK0712091488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] Some 17,000 persons will benefit from the prime minister's decision to provide relief to political and other prisoners. This was stated by the interior minister, Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, while talking to newsmen in Islamabad today.

He said release of prisoners would start within the next 3 days. The remission to these persons is being granted by the president at the advise of the prime minister.

He said there are 1,181 persons convicted by military courts. Of these, those who have not been sentenced for heinous crimes will be released immediately. Cases of others will be reviewed by the special committee, which is being set up with the attorney general as its head, and decided within 60 days. If no decision is taken within this period, they will be entitled to interim relief.

Punishment served by prisoners while under trial for all those convicted under prohibitory martial law regulations will be counted as part of punishment. Those who were awarded 14 years imprisonment by military courts in abstention will be given reprieves. However, their cases will be tried in ordinary courts.

The interior minister said all death sentences are being commuted to life imprisonment. This will benefit over 2,000 persons. 374 prisoners who are above 60 years of age and have undergone imprisonment of more than 5 years will be released. All women prisoners not convicted of murder will also be released.

Mr Aitzaz Ahsan, who is also the minister for law and justice, told newsmen that the Pakistan People's Party government will try to create a concensus in the National Assembly to restore the 1973 constitution. He said the government has no animosity toward any one and it desires that all provincial governments work according to the constitution.

Answering a question about by-elections, the minister said that the law shall be enforced freely, fairly, and impartially. He said identification cards are being provided to all electorates so that no voter is deprived of exercising his franchise.

Navy Inducts Two Indigenously-Built Submarines

BK0712101688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Pakistan is reported to have inducted two indigenously built submarines into its Navy. Reports in the Pakistani media say the submarines were constructed at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works and launched sometime late last night.

The news of the launching of the submarines comes close on the heels of the revelation by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey, that the country had acquired submarine-making capability.

The media reports, however, did not mention as to which class the submarines belong and what are their special features.

Sri Lanka

2,000 Prisoners Released on President's Ruling

BK0612113388 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Text] About 2,000 prisoners have been released under the Emergency Release of Suspects Regulation which was promulgated by the president. The regulation came into effect from the 2d of this month. This was a result of the recommendation made to the president by the minister of justice, E.P. Paul Perera [name as heard] recently.

In terms of the regulation, the secretary to the Ministry of Justice is mandatorily required to release certain categories of unconvicted prisoners upon their signing of a bond before the superintendent of prisons with sureties for his appearance in court with notice. Certain categories of grave offences are excluded from the regulation.

8 Indians, 13 LTTE Men Killed in Encounter

BK0612155988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, eight Peacekeeping Force [PKF] personnel and 13 LTTE militants were killed in an encounter at Vavani Kulam in the Vavuniya sector yesterday. According to an official release in New Delhi, six suspected militants were apprehended during the encounter which took place during search operations by the PKF. Another LTTE militant Karuna was killed by a patrol during a raid in the Pesalai area.

Law Protects Security Forces From Prosecution
BK0712131288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 7 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Parliament Wednesday approved laws protecting security forces from prosecution for their actions in combatting anti-government militants. Under the new law, the government removed a time limit on a previous indemnity to troops for their action in putting down an ethnic riot in 1978 to cover all their acts committed in "good faith."

"Acts of armed forces whether, legal or illegal, committed in good faith in the course of defending their country will be indemnified," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament. He said the need for the bill arose after the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord under which Tamil separatist guerrillas were granted a general amnesty after surrendering arms.

"It is most unreasonable not to indemnify officers acting in good faith for their country when terrorists who shoot soldiers in bad faith are given an amnesty and pardoned," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

The lone Communist Party (CP) member, Dew Gunasekera, voted against the law, saying it would only help raise the level of terrorism whether by the state or by subversives. He said the legislation was "grossly immoral" and questioned if it was a solution to the current unrest in the country where Sinhalese militants are carrying on a violent anti-government campaign.

Mr. Gunasekara said the law also covered orders given by government politicians and complained about victims or their next of kin being prevented from claiming compensation. The government has already armed soldiers with shoot on sight orders and empowered police to dispose of such victims without inquests.

Human rights groups and opposition parties have described the new laws introduced under emergency regulations as "draconion" and asked for their repeal. There had been charges of large scale arrests and disappearances of young men, mainly in Southern Province, allegedly at the hands of security forces in the past six months.